

T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
Captain and Miss RIVERS.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.



L O N D O N:

Printed for T. HOOKHAM, New Bond Street.
M.DCC.LXXXVII.

17438.56

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Feb. 2, 1951

THE

HISTORY

OF

Captain and Miss RIVERS.

MR. Meanwell seeing the porter of the hotel busily employed in marking down the names of several persons, and upon inquiring, found it was a list containing the names of such of the noblesse as had sent to inquire after Miss Rivers' health; and taking it with him, as he was going to her room, said,

"Indeed, Mademoiselle, you have
many friends in Florence, or, at
VOL. III. B " least,

“ least, well-wishers. I will read
“ their names.” And seeing that of
Lord Crosslove repeated several times,
asked her “ who he was?” Louisa
reddened at the question, and incapable
of dissimulation, gave him an account
of what she knew of him, and of the
proposal he had made her, and her
refusal of it; but not a syllable of
Lord Bellmont, with regard to her
engagement, being enjoined secrecy;
she mentioned merely having danced
with him, where, being rather atten-
tive to her, Lord Crosslove had taken
umbrage at it, and had removed his
nephew from Florence. Mr. Mean-
well, who knew Lord Crosslove ex-
ceedingly well, gave such an unfavour-
able description of his disposition and
manners, as made Mr. De Bonfoy
congratulate Louisa on her aversion
for him. And apprehending she
would suffer much from his persecu-
tion,

tion, if she remained in Florence, advised her to quit it; and offered to take her under his protection, and conduct her safe to Paris, to the house of her good friend Mrs. Pianelli, where, he supposed, she would chuse to reside. That he would always be happy whenever she would honour him and his family with her company, assuring her, on the part of Madame De Bonfoy, with a most friendly reception, although she could not provide her with an apartment at her house, on account of their large family. Louisa, with tears of gratitude, thanked the worthy man for his gracious offer, gave him her reason why she would not return to her excellent friends; as she had kept up a constant correspondence with Mrs. Pianelli, and was informed their house was entirely converted into a musical academy, for persons of both sexes, her husband's chief aim having been, for

some time past, to accumulate an addition to his fortune, in order to enable him, in a very few years, to retire into the country. And as it would be almost impossible for Miss Rivers to avoid mixing with the heterogeneous herd, should she again return to them. Her friend had advised her, in case she could meet with a proper person to accompany and protect her, to visit England; and as she was happy to have found in Mrs. Meanwell that friend and protector, so agreeable to his wishes, she intended to accept of his generous proposal. That she, as it likewise fulfilled her dying friend's request to her, through the dear deceased Marchioness's goodness, possessed of about forty Louis d'ors, some valuable trinkets, and a well-furnished wardrobe; and hoped to be of as little charge to her new friends as possible, as her needle and pencil should be employed to prevent her

her eating the bread of idleness. Mrs. Meanwell, overjoyed at Louisa's consenting to go with her to England, could not, however, help blushing at her mentioning the employing her pencil and needle, by way of supporting herself; and told her every part of her speech had pleased her but that, to which she greatly objected. Mr. De Bonfoy, on the contrary, commended her for it; it being, in his opinion, the surest mark of friendship to contribute, as much as possible, towards the not being a burden to a generous and benevolent friend. It was then resolved on, Louisa should send cards of thanks to all those ladies and gentlemen who had, during her illness, honoured her with their attention. That in the mean time they should make speedy preparations for their journey, and leave Florence, at farthest, in four days time, as Mr. De Bonfoy's business required

his return to Paris. It was likewise agreed that Louisa's journey should be kept a profound secret, as she feared Lord Crofflove's persecution ; and it was given out that she followed Mr. De Bonfoy into France, which had all the appearance of truth and probability. Every thing being thus settled to the satisfaction of all parties, cards of thanks were issued, which procured her the tiresome ceremony of seeing several persons much against her inclinations, Lady Bellmont and Miss Dupely being of the number. However, she dismissed them all in a very little time, alledging her newly-recovered health would not permit her to entertain company ; and, in reality, her dejected looks and pale countenance denoted but too much how heavy her grief sat on her. She likewise announced her departure from Florence, in order to avoid another cere-

ceremonious day of taking leave. As all imagined she was returning to France, no questions were asked on that subject, and she was freed from all importunate visitors, Crofflove excepted. That nobleman having, like the rest of the nobility, received a card of thanks, waited on her almost immediately and repeated his hateful proposal, though he saw the disconsolate Louisa almost drowned in tears during his visit. The loss of her dear friends, together with Lord Belmont's absence, of which he was the occasion, raised such a tumult in her tender breast as made his sight odious to her. But he, regardless of her affliction, rallied her, only saying, "Come, come, resume your wonted sprightliness, tears will never raise the dead; those pale cheeks of yours will never be come Lady Crofflove." Louisa reddening with resentment, said, "I

“ have already informed your lordship
“ of my determined resolution never
“ to be your's. There is an uncon-
“ querable bar between you and me
“ which no power on earth can re-
“ move ; I must, therefore, insist
“ henceforth you will give over all hopes
“ concerning me ; for I would prefer
“ death to being your wife. You will
“ likewise cease to importune me
“ any farther with your visits, for,
“ from this moment, I will never
“ see you more.” So saying, she arose
and was for leaving the room ; but he
stepping between her and the door, said,
“ Not so fast, my little would-be fu-
“ gitive ; you must be my prisoner
“ till I have a more favourable an-
“ swer.” Mr. De Bonfoy then ad-
vanced, and, with the politeness of a
gentleman, told his Lordship, “ That
“ as he was master of the hotel, and
“ that lady under his protection, he
“ must

" must excuse him in not suffering
" any to assume an authority there
" but himself, and insisted on his
" clearing the door-way, and to let the
" lady pass." — " You !" exclaimed
Lord Crofflove, foaming with passion,
" Why, who are you ? Do you think
" I fear you !" Louisa, whose spirits
were weak, and dreading a duel, was
near sinking on the floor with ap-
prehension ; but being supported by
Mrs. Meanwell, she recovered a little ;
Mr. Meanwell, at the same time, com-
ing up to the door with a most stern
look, and a motion of his hand, re-
moved his angry lordship immediate-
ly, who, on his side, seeing the con-
fusion he had occasioned, secretly beg-
ged pardon of the company, accusing
his violent love for the lady as being
the cause of it.

Mr. De Bonfoy, unwilling to quar-
rel, begged he would give over all

thoughts of her, as it was her unalterable and fixed resolution never to marry him ; besides, my Lord, added he, her affliction is too great, at present, to admit of such a subject ; and you should have considered her weak condition, and almost broken-hearted situation.

" I was to blame," replied his lordship, " and once more ask your par-
" don. I will try what effect writ-
" ing will produce," and then took his leave.

In the evening he sent a most obsequious letter to Miss Rivers ; but as it related entirely to the same subject, it is needless to repeat it. Louisa begged Mr. Meanwell to answer it in the French language, and that she would sign it.

My readers may be assured, as that gentleman could not have any great affection for his lordship, his answer was sufficiently peremptory, though comprised

comprised but in few lines, to deter him from any farther applicaiton in person. His lordship solicited by letter after letter, but not receiving any answers after the first, he was constrained to give over the pursuit, but swore with bitter imprecations he would be revenged on her, as he would have her watched, and run away with her, in order to compel her at the alter to receive his vows. And accordingly he planted spies at a little distance from the hotel, to give him notice whenever Louisa should attempt to take the air. Mr. Meanwell, as a lover, was not without some suspicions of that nature, which, however, he kept to himself; and as he had every thing to fear from the violence of his rival's disposition, he contented himself with watching his steps as much as possible, and by persuading the ladies to confine their walks to the garden of the

B 6. hotel,

hotel, eluding thereby Lord Crosslove's schemes being put in execution. He also had the precaution of sending all their trunks away by night, trusting to no one but himself, and his own servant to carry them to the inn, from whence they were to be sent to Leghorn, to be shipped off for England, all directed to himself. By this circumspection he defeated all his lordship's plans, whose spies had not half the dexterity of discovering as Mr. Meanwell had in concealing his manœuvres.

The day of their departure was at last fixed, and carriages were ordered to attend at nine in the morning; but as the ladies were to take a different road from that of Mr. De Bonfoy, Mr. Meanwell advised them, if Miss Rivers would not think it injurious to her health, to set off with his sister about six, as probably she might there-

by avoid seeing Lord Crofflove, who, he had a strong idea would not so easily let her depart, without seeing her once more. This plan was with pleasure adopted by all, and Mr. Meanwell himself, the following morning, at four o'clock, went to order a chaise and proper horses from a different place than where Mr. De Bonfoy had his. The ladies, ready at the appointed hour, took their leave of Mr. De Bonfoy. The afflicted Louisa, at the thought of leaving the spot where the remains of her precious friends were deposited, had no words but tears, which fell in profusion upon his face and hands, to thank that worthy man for his benevolence to her, who, on his side, presented her with the deceased Marchioness's watch, richly embellished with diamonds, and of great value, as a token of his friendship; as likewise an elegant diamond ring to

Mrs,

Mrs. Meanwell ; and having handed the ladies into the chaise, bade them adieu ! —the tears trickling down his honest face, Mr. Meanwell and his servant both on horseback riding on each side of the chaise, and were soon joined by Pharmace and his man, at the request of our young lover ; but who, notwithstanding, were to keep at some distance, lest the sight of the former might renew heart-breaking ideas in Louisa.

They had scarcely been an hour in the chaise, and pursuing their journey, when Mr. Meanwell perceived three men on horseback following them with incredible swiftness, as likewise a post-chaise, which, to all appearance, seemed to be empty. Upon which riding up to Mr. Pharmace, who, as before observed, kept at some distance with his servant, they agreed to stop, in:

in order to reconnoitre the horsemen; when, to their inexpressible sorrow, not astonishment, they found it to be Lord Crosslove himself, mounted on an exceeding good horse, accompanied by two of his servants equally well mounted, and a third in the chaise. They took not the least notice of either Mr. Meanwell or his party, but passing by them furiously with an intent to overtake the carriage, which occasioned our gentlemen to clap spurs to their horses, and to come up with them just as they had reached it. Louisa gave a violent scream at the sight of Lord Crosslove, and fainted in her companion's arms. Mr. Meanwell immediately put himself in a posture of defence, and presenting a pistol, asked his lordship, "What he meant by " stopping the carriage? which was " the action of a highwayman, and " deserved the chastisement of one
" with

“ with having his brains blown out,
“ which he would put in execution,
“ if the fears of alarming the ladies
“ by the report of the pistol did not
“ prevent him.” “ I mean nothing in
“ the world,” answered he, “ but to
“ have that lady change carriages, and
“ be drove with me to the next vil-
“ liage, where I will marry her, and
“ then run away with her if you
“ dare!” And without regarding the
pistol, or even trying to screen himself
from its effects, he called to his peo-
ple to come up with his chaise and
assist him in putting the lady into it;
but his assistants being kept off by
Pharmace and the servants, Mr. Mean-
well bid the postilion drive on with the
ladies, whilst he kept his lordship in
awe with the pistol cocked, who being
enraged, calling his people dastardly
cowardly villains; and was turning
about in a violent emotion to lay his
whip

whip to them, when his horse threw him, and he lay for some moments speechless. In an instant the intended combatants assembled about him, and having insisted on him to rise, he roared out, in a most dreadful manner, he had broken his leg, which Mr. Pharmace, on examination, found effectually so, and offered his assistance.

Mr. Meanwell, too generous to exult over his lordship's misfortune, recommended Pharmace as a man of skill and experience; and having presented the latter with ten sequins, (five guineas) as a gratuity to his servant for his intrepidity, and wished Lord Crosslove, whom pain had now rendered sulky, a speedy recovery; and leaving him in the care of the surgeon, set off with his servant in pursuit of the ladies. It was near an hour before he overtook the chaise, and just at the entrance of the village where they were

to

to change horses; and coming up to them, with a smiling countenance, offered his hand to help them out of the chaise. Louisa, who was by this time perfectly recovered, cried out in an ecstasy of joy, "Your brother is here
" safe, and unhurt."

Mr. Meanwell was not a little elated at the satisfaction expressed in her countenance at the sight of him, as lovers are ever industrious in flattering themselves when they meet with the least encouragement. Mr. Meanwell having conducted the ladies into a decent apartment, and having called for some refreshments, gave them a particular detail of the rencontre with Lord Crosslove, and concluded with saying, "That he was sorry for his lordship's misfortune; yet, as he entirely brought it upon himself, and as he would undoubtedly be confined for some months, Miss Rivers would have nothing.

nothing to fear of his undertaking a second plot against her, and she might travel on in the greatest security ; which effectually was the case, and they arrived in England without any farther impediment, and Louisa much improved in her health and spirits.

Dr. Meanwell, the father of Mr. and Mrs. Meanwell, received them with all imaginable satisfaction ; and having had previous notice from his son of their landing at Dover, he had prepared every thing for their reception

Louisa was charmed with the venerable old gentleman, who, on his side, conceived a most tender and fatherly affection for her ; for being perfectly acquainted with her family, and having always respected her father, whom he likewise had known, and whose misfortunes he had often lamented ; and bearing a striking likeness to the captain

captain, endeared her still more to him. But she had not been long an inhabitant of this peaceful and agreeable mansion, before she perceived, to her inexpressible sorrow, that Mr. Meanwell, junior's, attention to her proceeded from a different motive than that of extreme politeness and good breeding. It pained her to be compelled to quit this agreeable family, which certainly would be the case, should he ever declare himself to her; and, at the same time, she was hurt to see an amiable young man whom she perfectly esteemed, and liked as a friend, suffer for her sake. But as the great respect which accompanied his words and actions, conscious of his own inferiority, did not permit him to open his heart to her; she endeavoured to be as careful as possible, and appeared to be entirely ignorant of his sentiments for her.

This

This succeeded, and young Meanwell checking his passion as much as possible, Louisa began to look as beautiful as ever. The thoughts of Lord Belmont caused her from time to time to sigh; but having a perfect confidence in his honour, she entertained the flattering hope he would prove, at the stated period, such as her heart wished him to be: and being far from a desponding disposition, but, on the contrary, naturally lively and cheerful, though she had had many bitter trials to convert her amiable temper into bitter melancholy, yet her superior reason and strong understanding carried her through the variety of vicissitudes she had experienced with amazing fortitude and patience.

What added greatly to her return of health, was, the agreeable letters she received from her worthy friend Mrs. Pianelli, as likewise those of Mr. De Bonfoy,

Bonfoy, who informed her with what she was acquainted already, the accident of Lord Crosslove, who had been exceedingly ill, and would, in all probability, be confined to his room for four or five months, as he was of a gross, corpulent habit of body, and had often been heard to say, “ That he sincerely repented of his brutal behaviour to her, looking upon what he suffered at that time, to be a judgement upon him for his unparallelled persecution of her.”

Louisa, who was goodness itself, sincerely forgave his lordship for his former cruelty—his repentance alone was a sufficient plea to excite her compassion, and exterminate her contempt of him. As Louisa visited with Mrs. Meanwell in several families of fashion, where she was the universal admiration, she was persuaded by several of them to pay a visit to the Earl and Countess

Countess Rivers, which could in no ways prove prejudicial to her, as, on the contrary, the omitting it might be alledged against her as want of respect and duty towards her father and family; and Mr. and Mrs. Meanwell being of the same opinion, she accordingly waited on them, without any previous notice sent them, and accompanied by Mrs. Meanwell in her carriage, repaired to Grosvenor Square.

The ladies were introduced into a parlour, where Lady Rivers sent Mrs. Meanwell word she would join her immediately, that lady's name having been singly announced.—In the mean time, Mr. William Rivers, youngest son of the Earl, of whom mention has been made by young Meanwell, as differing so much from his brothers and sisters, this young gentleman seeing Louisa enter the room, was so pleased with her beauty and elegant figure,
that

that he ran up stairs into the room where his parents and sisters were sitting, and cried out in raptures, speaking to his mother, "Oh! Madam, " there is the most beautiful lady below with Mrs. Meanwell my eyes ever beheld: do, pray, go down and see her." The young ladies, his sisters, both exceeding plain women, said with a sneer, "She must be beautiful indeed if you think so, for I never saw a boy have a worse taste than yourself; but we will go down with mama and see this beauty." "You had better not," replied the gentleman, "she will shine still more conspicuously between such foils as you and Lady Barbara."—"Insolent puppy!" they both exclaimed as they were following the Countess down the stairs, attended by the Earl and William, and were but to well convinced of the truth of his assertion,

as the envious blush on their cheek,
and their careless half curtsey on their
entering the room, but too plainly de-
monstrated.

Louisa rose on the entrance of her uncle and aunt, whose eyes were riveted upon her, although their discourse was addressed to Mrs. Meanwell with an “How do you? why did you not call before?” Mrs. Meanwell’s answer, however, obliged them to direct their looks towards her; and being devoured by curiosity, both the Earl and the Countess asking at the same time, “Pray who is this young lady?” “That young lady,” said Mrs. Meanwell, “who I have the honour to introduce to you, is Miss Rivers, daughter of Captain Rivers, and your niece.” “That Miss Rivers!” was heard from every voice at the same time. Louisa then rising and stepping forward to

the Countess, and with the most amiable modesty and sweetest tone of voice, said, " I hope your Ladyship
" will pardon the liberty I have ta-
" ken, but I thought it my duty to
" pay my respects to you and the
" Earl as I was come to England."
" And pray who sent you, Madam ?"
said Lord Rivers in a surly manner,
" Did I not signify my sentiments re-
" specting you to Lord C. the ambaf-
" fador in Paris, that I did not know
" you, or had a wish to know you ?"—
" And so bold, too, to come without
" having been asked !" said one of the
young ladies. " Indeed, Mrs. Mean-
" well, in this you have not acted
" with your accustomed good breeding
" and politeness."

The disconcerted Louisa was so amazed and confused at what she heard, as to be deprived of the power of speech ; nor had she much opportunity

tunity of replying, as Lady Rivers immediately cried out, " Be quiet all of you ; you have no business with her :" then, in a scornful manner, said, " Well, Miss, and what would you have me do for you ?" " Do for me, Madam !" replied she, " I only wish to be permitted to wait on you sometimes." — " I'll give you one piece of advice," rejoined the Lady, " Divest yourself of that foolish pride of being called Miss Rivers, and assume any other name, then I may perhaps recommend you to some lady of my acquaintance who may be in want of a maid servant, and — ."

Louisa scould hold out no longer, but reddening with indignation, said, " Divest myself of my name ! I glory in it, and add more honour to it, though in a humble state, than those who, like you, degrade it by

“ insolence and pride, which puts you
“ below my contempt, and exalts
“ me in the eyes of the good and vir-
“ tuous, by rendering me infinitely
“ your superior,” and immediately
left the room. “ A most excellent re-
“ ply,” said young Rivers, as he fol-
lowed to the door; and added, “ I am
“ hurt beyond description, Madam, at
“ the unhuman treatment you have
“ received,” at the same time present-
ing his hand to assist her getting in-
to her carriage. “ Her father to a tit-
“ tle,” said the Earl, as she was leav-
ing the room. “ A most complete
“ Miss as ever I saw,” echoed Lady
Martha after her sister. Lady Rivers,
unable to answer from vexation at her
neice’s reply, bit her lips, and turning
to Mrs. Meanwell, said, “ I’ll take
“ another opportunity to thank you
“ for introducing this pert little bag-
“ gage to me, which I insist on never
“ seeing

" seeing any more at my house."—
 " Nor shall you, Lady Rivers," an-
 swered she, " ever have that honour
 " again: I blush at your behaviour
 " so unbecoming a woman of fashion;
 " nor shall I ever present myself be-
 " fore you. As for your daughters,
 " their unmannerly insolence and ill-
 " bred impertinence have rendered
 " them the town talk already, nor
 " shall this last specimen of their
 " arrogance be kept a secret, I give
 " you my word;" and, leaving the
 room, was handed into the carriage by
 young Rivers, who had remained at
 the street-door, modestly contemplating
 his cousin's beauty.

Louisa was far from being hurt or
 melancholy at her relation's reception
 of her; it was what she expected; and
 said to her friend as the carriage drove off,
 " I have fulfilled my duty, Mrs.

C 3 " Meanwell,

" Meanwell, and forgive them their
" inhumanity."

Having returned home, the Mr. Meanwells were shocked at the narration, and the good old gentleman fearing it might have an effect on her spirits, though there was not the least reason to suppose it, as she he tily despised their proceedings towards her, desired his daughter to propose her going to the play that evening, " and " let Tom, added he, accompany you both." This was accepted with thanks; and Tom having secured a front seat in one of the side boxes in the best part of the house, escorted the ladies to Drury-lane playhouse—The house was uncommonly crowded—the play the School for Scandal, where both Mr. King and Mrs. Abington so deservedly fill up the chief characters. Our agreeable trio were scarcely seated before they beheld, in one of the side

side boxes opposite to theirs, Earl Rivers, his lady, their daughters, and three sons.

As Louisa was in a manner a stranger there all eyes were immediately fixed upon her, excepting those of her female relations, who obstinately bent theirs upon the Orchestra, lest they should meet those of their cousin's. As Louisa looked inexpressibly beautiful, the confused timidity so visible in her countenance, at her finding herself the object of attention of the best part of the audience, added so considerably to her natural charms, that, till the curtain was drawn up, nothing was heard but murmured whisperings of "Who is that lady? Where " has this beauty been buried?" and the like. The play began, she gave her entire attention to the performance of it, which occasioned another surprise on the part of her gazing ad-

mirers, who, for the most part, not only spend their time at the theatre in conversation with those who will listen to them, to the great discouragement of many a respectable actor who exerts his utmost power to please, but likewise prevents those from hearing who come there for fulfilling their intention of seeing and hearing a play. The first act being over, Mr. William Rivers tapped at the box, which being opened, he, in the politest manner addressed Miss Rivers, asking her "How she liked the play?" Which she very politely expressed her satisfaction of, and then evaded as much as possible any farther conversation with him; not from any dislike of the young man himself, who she was conscious was innocent of his parents' unkind behaviour to her, but to avoid incurring their displeasure by an over-marked esteem and civility to her; not

not but whenever he spoke to her she answered him with all imaginable affability, but she did not chuse to keep up a continual discourse for reasons above mentioned.

Mrs. Meanwell was a joyous spectator of the visible uneasiness which Earl Rivers and family exhibited in their looks at William's remarkable attention and politeness with which he accosted and conversed with his cousin; and she took care, with a little spite, however, to inform a lady who sat below her in the same box, of her morning adventure with Miss Rivers at the Earl's house, which she did with the greatest satisfaction, as the lady she had chosen as a object of her information was of the most communicative disposition in the metropolis, and she was well assured that by the following day it would be the tea-table talk all over London. Mr. William Ri-

vers, after a little more chat with Mr. and Mrs. Meanwell, left their box, and bowing attentively to his cousin, wished her and her party a good night.

At his return to his father's box, all his relations seemed to declare war against him; the Earl frowned, the Countess scolded, his brothers looked scornfully, and his sisters spitefully refused his sitting between them, as he had done before his leaving them; by all which absurd behaviour they exposed themselves infinitely more than Mrs. Meanwell could positively have done, by her account to Mrs. Chatwell. That lady, fond to her heart of a little scandal, thought the comedy much too long, as it prevented her giving vent to what she had heard, and what she had observed, upon all which she was determined her improvements and additions should not be wanting.— At the end of the second act, Viscount Rivers

Rivers maliciously said to his sisters,
 " I'll go and insult Will's cousin, by
 " asking her how she likes Tom
 " Meanwell ?" The young gentleman earnestly solicited his brother not to be guilty of such an atrocious breach of urbanity and good manners.
 " What has the poor thing done to you ?" said he in a dejected tone of voice: " Is it her fault she is unfortunate ?" His parents both objected to his proposal, as likewise did his brother John, who said, " She is handsome, James; let her beauty plead for her." But he, notwithstanding, would follow his inclinations, being thereto encouraged by his sisters, who were exasperated at the words of beauty and her being handsome. He repaired to the box, where Louisa and her party were then making their observations on the actors, and on such parts of the play as pleasant.

sed them the most. Although Mrs. Meanwell had seen Viscount Rivers leave his box, unobserved to Louisa, who never cast a look that way, yet she had not the smallest idea he could have the confidence to come to theirs, as her brother and himself were not upon good terms; how great then was her astonishment when, at his coming there, he familiarly accosted him with an "How are you, Doctor?" Louisa just at that time turning her head on the opening of the door, he cried out, "A fine girl, faith; you are a happy fellow, Tom." The contemptuous look which she then gave him, though not knowing who he was, and Mrs. Meanwell exclaiming, with a stern countenance, "For shame, Lord Rivers! do you know where you are?" awed him so effectually, that he remained silent for some moments, biting his nails.

Louisa, now sensible who was their visitor, continued unconcerned her conversation with the ladies as before, which mortified his pride not a little, seeing himself of such small consequence as not to occasion, in the least, any alteration in her behaviour, when he imagined she would have blushed and been greatly disconcerted. Mrs. Meanwell likewise, who had a most despicable opinion of him, never vouchsafed him even a single look, nor did her brother attempt to say another word to him. Vexed to a degree, he was determined not to give it up so, but to vent his spleen before he left them, saying to Mrs. Meanwell, " You was in " Grosvenor square this morning, I " hear ; " — " And am now in the " playhouse, you see," said she, with no other ceremony or attention — " You are grown very sharp," retorted he : " have you learnt that in France?" — " Not

— “ Not half sharp enough,” replied she, “ to a person who, like you, “ wants decency and good manners.”

— “ Now,” resumed he, “ I’ll apply “ to that pretty girl there. Do I want “ good manners, Miss ? ” speaking to Miss Rivers, and tapping her shoulder

— “ Pray, Madam,” said she to Mrs. Chatwell, without taking the least notice of the Viscount, “ is not that man “ one of those, who, from their brutish “ behaviour, are called shilling-gallery “ gentry ? ” — Mrs. Chatwell burst out into a violent fit of laughter, which communicated itself to her neighbour and Mrs. Meanwell, who heartily joined in it, and by which they disconcerted his crest-fallen Lordship so much, that he instantly left the box, and the play-house, not having presence of mind sufficient for the inventing of a plausible tale to communicate to his sisters, who, notwithstanding, from the sive glances
which

which they had cast on their cousin and her party, were pretty well convinced of their brother's defeat, having particularly remarked Louisa's inattentive and scornful behaviour to him.

"The Viscount is conquered and fled," said Mr. John Rivers—"And I dare answer," replied William, "he has met with the insult he intended to have bestowed; and I rejoice at it with all my heart."

The third act now began, and our amiable heroine and her company remained quiet and happy the remaining part of the evening.

At their leaving the house, her two youngest cousins, John and William, stood at the door; the first to gaze at her, the other to help her to the carriage; in which, however, he was disappointed, Mr. Meanwell then having the honour of holding her hand; and as Mrs. Meanwell was unprovided with

bells

a cava-

a cavalier, he gallantly escorted her to the chariot.

Louisa, in high spirits, at her returning home, charmed the good Mr. Meanwell, and the party with him, consisting of two ladies and a gentleman, who had amused themselves at whist, during their absence at the playhouse. As they were engaged to stay supper, which was soon after served up, and the dessert and the wine being put upon the table, she was requested to sing, which she did with such an inimitable grace, accompanying herself upon the guittar, that all the company was delighted with her. Young Meanwell alone seemed pensive; his eyes fixed upon Louisa from whom it was impossible to withdraw them, till thereto compelled by his sister's looks, and addressing herself every now and then to him, when she perceived he was absent to every one, the object of his heart excepted.

excepted. Mrs. Meanwell was no stranger to what passed in her brother's heart, although he never had uttered to her, or any body else, how deeply he was enamoured of the lovely Louisa. It pained her to see him in this situation, as she had often heard her mention her unwillingness to enter into any engagement with any man until she had completed her twenty-first year: and even not then, unless the object should prove such, as would promise her permanent happiness, and whose birth and rank in the world would authorise her choice, should her father be still living. As to the first, she had no reason in the world to think Louisa entertained any other sentiments for her brother than those of friendship, founded upon gratitude, as she was much obliged to him in several respects, and on every occasion she shewed her being sensible of it, by doing all in her power
to

to oblige him. But that more refined part of friendship which only subsists between lovers, she was very well assured, she had not the least idea of.

A circumstance then occurred which soon brought the ladies to an eclaircissement. As Louisa was extremely cautious how she incurred obligations, and had found that though she frequently had offered to pay her board and lodgings to Mrs. Meanwell as long as her little fund would last, and had been as frequently refused, so her prudence would not permit her to trust entirely to her friend's liberality, but employed her pencil upon silk, gauze, and other materials; and not only constrained Mrs. Meanwell to accept of several pieces elegantly finished, both in painting and embroidery, as a small token of her gratitude, but likewise laid by a great many, to dispose of, whenever her little stock should be exhausted.

Mrs.

Mrs. Meanwell one morning coming into her room, and perceiving her busily employed in rolling up fan mounts, toilette boxes, work bags, shawls, either all exquisitely painted, or embroidered by herself, asked her why she kept all those things by her, and why not rather dispose of them, than to keep them till newer fashions should put them out of date? "I know not how to go about the disposing of them," answered Louisa.—"Trust them with me," replied Mrs. Meanwell; "I know an honest milliner who will do you justice." To which Louisa agreeing, her friend immediately sent for Mrs. Egrette, the milliner in question, who eagerly embraced the offer, agreeing to pay upwards of thirty pounds for the whole; to the no small satisfaction of both ladies. The Countess of Sweetland, a most amiable and excellent woman, having soon after made a purchase
to

of one of the fans which Mrs. Egrette had the moment before carried home from Mrs. Meanwell, and being delighted with the execution of it, asked her if she knew the name of the limner, who could in this wonderful manner thus imitate nature? upon which Mrs. Egrette told her, she imagined him to be a Frenchman, as a lady in that neighbourhood, being lately returned from that kingdom, had not only disposed of that fan to her, but of several other wonderful performances, all of which she exhibited before her Ladyship, who was so delighted with the work of the several articles, that she eagerly wished to see the importer of them, not thinking it possible they were ever intended for sale, unless the owner of them was thereto compelled by misfortunes: and being, upon inquiry, informed of Mrs. Meanwell's abode, on her return home she sent a card.

card to that lady, intreating her permission, to wait on her the next morning; which was acceded to.

Lady Sweetland accordingly, the following morning, came to her appointment. She found the ladies together, agreeably and industriously employed; Mrs. Meanwell reading, and Louisa painting a fire-screen. After the necessary apologies for her visit were over, she led immediately to the question which had brought her hither; and speaking with raptures of the excellent artist, begged to know his name. Louisa having put her work aside, coloured excessively at this request, and Mrs. Meanwell looked rather confused, which Lady Sweetland observing, asked pardon, and hoped her curiosity had not given offence. "Not in the least," Madam," answered Mrs. Meanwell, somewhat more composed. "The artist of the work you so much admire
is

“ is a lady, and my particular friend,
“ whose uncommon genius leads her
“ to employ her hours of leisure in
“ different works of fancy ; and having
“ finished several valuable pieces, which
“ lying hid in drawers, to satisfy her
“ generous disposition of presenting
“ them to one friend or another, of
“ which she had already given too
“ many proofs, I earnestly entreated
“ her to dispose of some to enable her
“ to provide the materials requisite
“ for fresh proofs of her ingenuity.”
Louisa, unable any longer to witness
the praises of her friend in her behalf,
was for leaving the room ; when Lady
Sweetland, instantly imagining her to
be the performer, complimented her in
the most delicate manner on her excel-
lent taste and execution ; and having
intimated her desire of seeing the screen
she was employed upon at her entering
into the room, Louisa immediately
complied

complied with all imaginable affability; which charmed the heart of her Ladyship, who secretly confessed to herself, she never had seen any thing half so lovely as the object now before her.

The conversation afterwards took another turn, as Mrs. Chatwell's communicative disposition had displayed itself to all her acquaintance, with regard to Lord Rivers and family's treatment of their niece; so likewise Lady Sweetland had heard something about it, though in a confused manner; for as she hated tittle tattle and scandal, she was always the last who was informed of any thing relative to it; but hearing the many encomiums bestowed on Miss Rivers, she testified a strong desire of seeing and knowing her. "I knew
"her amiable mother," added she,
"when Miss Portmore; and then but
"a child—I was in Ireland just after
"Colonel Portmore lost his valuable
"wife."

“ wife”.—“ Oh, Madam,” exclaimed Louisa, almost drowned in tears, “ I
“ am the unfortunate offspring of that
“ amiable Miss Portmore—That un-
“ happy orphan, rejected and despised
“ by her relations.” —“ You, Miss
“ Rivers!” interrupted Lady Sweet-
land, in the utmost amazement—“ My
“ lovely girl, where have you been
“ secreted all this time, and now shine
“ forth with such astonishing perfec-
“ tions ?” Then taking her in her
arms, wept over her and kissed her with
a motherly affection, crying out at the
same time, “ blessed be that providence
“ that directed my steps to Mrs. Egrette’s
“ —I will act a mother’s part by you,
“ if that Lady will permit me; but
“ pray inform me where you have re-
“ ceived that excellent education so con-
“ spicuous in your behaviour, and those
“ accomplishments which make you the
“ admiration of all who know you ?”

—Mrs.

—Mrs. Meanwell then informed her Ladyship of as much of Louisa's story as time would then permit; and Lady Sweetland, all wonder and amazement, frequently interrupted her and Louisa, who assisted in relating the various vicissitudes in life, by exclaiming, “Oh, “ my dear young lady, Providence “ hath hitherto guided and protected “ you, and no doubt for some happy “ end.” Her time for returning home drawing near, she affectionately took leave of her and Mrs. Meanwell, earnestly soliciting their company that evening at her house, in order to be farther informed of every particular relating to herself, and that, when acquainted with how far, and in what manner, her engagement consisted with Mrs. Meanwell, she intended to make her an offer of her house, and herself as a mother to her, and departed.

Louisa was charmed with Lady Sweetland's manner, conversation, and affability; nor was Mrs. Meanwell less in love with her Ladyship; only she did not relish her proposal of depriving her of Miss Rivers, who she really loved, and said, half smiling, "She
" is a naughty woman if she takes you
" away from me; and I shall not love
" her."—"My dear Mrs. Meanwell,"
replied Miss Rivers, "do not think me
so ungrateful as to preferli ving any
where, to my residence with you."
—"Well, well, my dear," replied
she, "I know your generous way of
thinking, and I trust you will have
no reason to desire our separation."
—"Very cogent and important rea-
sons they must be indeed," replied
Louisa, "that could effectuate such a
painful task as that would prove to
me." Mrs. Meanwell then thought
it more prudent not to acquaint either
her

her father or brother with Lady Sweetland's offer of her house, but confine their detail to that lady's visit, what had occasioned it, her knowledge of Louisa's mother, and her obliging invitation of them that evening; in which she acquiesced.

Young Mr. Meanwell was remarkably attentive to this narration of her sister, as she was the speaker, and grew exceedingly melancholy and pensive upon the occasion, as if he foresaw the object of his love would soon be snatched from him; his father observing it, asked what was the matter with him? At which he coloured, and withdrew his eyes from Louisa, on which they had been fixed, and pleaded head-ach. Louisa perceived but too well, to her sorrow, that she was the cause of his dejection, and secretly pitied him. Mrs. Meanwell who tenderly loved her brother, felt every pang for him which

hopeless love generally inspires, being too well convinced he must not hope for success there.

The visiting hour being arrived, the ladies prepared for Portman square. Poor Meanwell, as he handed Louisa into the chariot, trembled in such a manner, as obliged her to say to him, "I am certain you are not well, Mr. Meanwell.— You had better have some advice, and keep at home this evening."—"Your obliging anxiety for me, Madam," answered he, "will I hope prove my best physician." Louisa blushed exceedingly at these words, as he never before had given her any reason to suppose he loved her, but from his looks.— She therefore made not the least reply—her silence, then, she judged denoted a sufficient disapprobation of his expression. Mrs. Meanwell likewise looked disconcerted at Louisa, as if to beg pardon for her brother,

ther, and doubted of obtaining it ; but she, guessing her thoughts, relieved her, by beginning a subject entirely different from that which now troubled them both, and asked her if she thought Mr. William Rivers resembled her ? This entirely restored Mrs. Meanwell to her former serenity, that young man being a great favourite of hers : and having answered her question in the affirmative, the Earl and his family furnished them with conversation till they arrived in Portman Square.

Lord and Lady Sweetland received them with that politeness and affability becoming persons of their rank, especially to those whose visits inspire them with sincere satisfaction. Miss Rivers in particular attracted his Lordship's immediate notice, not only on account of her beautiful face and elegant person, but as she bore a most strong resemblance of both her father and mother in her

D 3 countenance,

countenance, he having been particularly intimate with Captain Rivers, and had seen her mother frequently in Ireland before she was married; so that, after the first compliments were over, he addressed himself to her, assuring her if Lady Sweetland had not informed him who they were to have the honour of receiving that evening, he would have known her to have been his worthy long-lost friend's daughter; and added, that it would make him exceedingly happy would she permit him to act a father's part by her, by taking her under his immediate protection, as such an amiable companion would greatly augment Lady Sweetland's felicity; at the same time as her manner, her disposition, and her accomplishments, would furnish his daughters with a most excellent pattern for their future conduct in life. As his Lordship's kind offer was rather abrupt, and

Louisa

Louisa unprepared for it, she only testified her gratitude by her looks, and a profound inclination with her head. Lady Sweetland then begged of her and Mrs. Meanwell, in the most obliging manner, to inform her Lord of some of the most material circumstances of Miss Rivers' history; which Mrs. Meanwell kindly undertook, assisted every now and then by Louisa. Lord Sweetland was astonished beyond expression at the various vicissitudes so young a person as herself had experienced, and the miraculous and visible hand of Providence, which had extricated her out of all her difficulties, and had raised her friends when she most needed them: and understanding from herself the obligations she was under to Dr. Meanwell and his family, neither he nor his Lady dared to urge her any more to quit those benevolent friends, in order to reside at Sweetland House,

D 4 they

they themselves abhorring ingratitude; therefore could not but commend Louisa for her attachment to Mrs. Meanwell, and the obliging her to the utmost of her power. Lady Sweetland nevertheless gave her the strongest assurances of the most hearty welcome to her house, should any unforeseen event compel her to quit the hospitable roof of her amiable friends: "And," added she, "as my duty to the Queen demands my frequent attendance on her Majesty, which obliges me to leave the care of my daughters to those who are not so well qualified as I could wish to be their companions in my absence, although strict in morals and principles, I need not repeat how agreeable and useful your company will be to me, should you once more prove the sport of fortune, and leave this worthy lady." Mrs. Meanwell assured her Ladyship that both

both herself and her father were now so much accustomed to, and so happy in Miss Rivers' company, which they had enjoyed near four months, that it would be with the utmost difficulty they could be prevailed on to part with her.

Louisa thanked her friend in the most grateful and affectionate terms, and expressed the high sense she entertained of Lord and Lady Sweetland's obliging offer, yet begged leave to assure her that nothing should separate them, unless some event, as her Ladyship had observed, should force her to the separation. Then addressing herself to Lady Sweetland, made an offer of her service (with Mrs. Meanwell's permission) to visit the young ladies whenever her Ladyship should be under the necessity of leaving them, which was gratefully accepted by the noble master and mistress of the mansion, who kindly beg-

ged Mrs. Meanwell would join with her friend in visiting not only their children, but themselves, whenever she should think proper to honour them with her company. The young ladies (of which there were two, Lady Maria, about twelve years of age, and Lady Emma, about ten, daughters of Lord and Lady Sweetland, and the only children they had, both amiable girls) now made their appearance, having been summoned by their mother, and shewed by their manner and behaviour the excellent education they had received from that best of women. Louisa was charmed with them both; and finding they were taught music, entreated them to oblige her with a lesson on the harpsichord, with which they immediately complied. After which, at the joint request of the whole company, she gave them such a specimen of her skill on that instrument as astonished

all

all present, although she had not exerted her usual powers, but kept within limits through natural modesty, as likewise not being willing to eclipse too much the performance of the lovely girls who had played before her; but as indifferent as she thought it was, Lord and Lady Sweetland both affirmed they never had heard any thing to equal it.

The evening being now pretty far advanced, Mrs. Meanwell observed, that though she was loath to take leave of Lord and Lady Sweetland, yet the hour, and her duty to her father, obliged her to think of returning home, if agreeable to Miss Rivers, who immediately rose from her seat, shewing such attention to that lady in this, as in every thing else, as charmed both Lord and Lady Sweetland, who in a most amicable and kind manner solicited them to repeat their visits as often as possible

D 6 without

without any ceremony, as they in their turn would take the freedom of calling on them whenever inclination prompted them, and leisure permitted it; which was promised on both sides, and faithfully observed. This amiable party then separated, each highly contented and satisfied with the other.

On their return home they found Dr. Meanwell rather low in spirits, on account of the indisposition of his son, who had laboured under a pretty smart fever all the evening, yet could not be prevailed upon to retire. Louisa, whose tenderness of heart was ever open to compassion, saw, with infinite pain, his countenance flushed, his lips pale, and his eyes heavy, and sunk into his head; and guessing she was partly the cause of his indisposition, lamented within herself her not being able to do something to relieve the amiable youth who had done so much for her; and though

her

her eyes announced her pity for him, and her sorrow for her situation, yet she did not dare to own that pity and that sorrow which agitated her, in words, lest he might be encouraged to suppose her compassion proceeded from another cause which would have been criminal in her to have led him in an error: but on his looking at her with eyes in which love and respect were painted, her humanity got the better of her assumed reserve, and with the most inexpressible sweetness, entreated him to retire to his appartment, as rest was the only remedy for his illness. " You must be obeyed, Madam," replied he, with more chearfulness than he had been observed to have been possessed with during the evening; and after having wished her, his father, and sister a good night, retired immediately.

Our trio now remained rather dull, though each through a different motive;

Dr.

Dr. Meanwell, from ignorance of the cause of his son's indisposition : his daughter, from the certainty of the cause, and her doubts of its ever being relieved by the object who had occasioned it ; and Louisa from humanity, compassion, gratitude and inability to relieve him. Her esteem and affection were too firmly fixed on the absent Lord Belmont, of whom she never had heard the least syllable—and indeed how could she hear from him ? he himself being ignorant of her destiny, and supposed her still at Florence, persecuted by his uncle ; though the high opinion he had conceived of her flattered him with the hopes of her fulfilling her engagement with him — She never entertained the least suspicion of his want of honour. The noble sentiments she knew him possessed with, his morals, his virtues, and the amiable character both Mrs. Meanwell and her brother had given her

her of him, all co-operated in favour of him, and cemented her unalterable affection and regard for him: his absence therefore, and the improbability of hearing from him, caused her, notwithstanding, many a severe pang; but she sighed in silence, strictly adhering to the promise she had given him.

But to return. Mrs. Meanwell, however, opened the conversation after the servants were withdrawn, by giving her father a circumstantial account of their evening pastime at Lord Sweetland's. The good old gentleman seemed highly delighted with the patronage and protection this worthy couple offered Miss Rivers, not only on account of her own merit, which certainly claimed the attention of all who knew her, but also on account of the excellence of their disposition, which displayed itself manifestly by their inclination to take care of a supposed distressed orphan,

phan, for whose long-lost father their friendship, after near twenty years absence, had not in the least diminished.

" I should however, be sorry," added he, addressing himself to Miss Rivers, " should they prevail on you to prefer " their society to ours," — " They " have too much generosity," interrupted Mrs. Meanwell, " ever to en- " deavour at it, unless by free consent " of all parties concerned; and as to " my friend here, I am too well ac- " quainted with her candour and fin- " cerity to entertain the least doubt of " her separation from us, merely " through caprice or love for variety."

Louisa kindly thanked them both for their repeated marks of friendship for her, which she would endeavour to deserve, by an implicit compliance to all they would request of her, as far as her power permitted her. After a little
more

more agreeable conversation with each other, they all retired to their respective apartments.

Louisa no sooner saw herself alone, than she seriously meditated on the plan she was to pursue. She saw but too plainly Mr. Meanwell's attachment for her had already deprived him of his health ; his excessive modesty in not declaring his sentiments to her, imposed a silence upon him which had all the appearance of being prejudicial to him ; and although he was not naturally shy, and, from his family, fortune, and connections, would have done honour to any young lady by the offer of his hand, yet there was something in the looks and behaviour of Miss Rivers, (notwithstanding her being exceedingly lively and cheerful) which awed him with a kind of reverence, and took from him all power of opening his heart to her. Louisa
was

was but too sensible of the sufferings this amiable young man felt for her, but had nothing to return him but pity. She dreaded lest his sister should become his advocate, and, in that case, what was there left for her do? To quit the house of Dr. Meanwell was the first necessary step to be taken by her: but would not that appear like the blackest ingratitude, to quit those friends, who, in every sense of the word, had proved so in reality to her? Sure of any asylum at Lord Sweetland's, yet could she promise herself that solid satisfaction, and contented cheerful life she had experienced at her friend Meanwell's? In books, music, drawing, and a select society of sensible, agreeable persons, her days had passed away since her arrival in England, always giving and receiving satisfaction. Was she sure to find in Lady Sweetland that unaffected piety, so

so essential to happiness ; that cordial and heart-binding friendship she had ever met with in Mrs. Meanwell ? On the other hand, should she remain in the family, how could she reconcile such a circumstance with female delicacy ? Besides, would it not aggravate and augment young Mr. Meanwell's indisposition, by having the object of his sufferings continually before his eyes ? "Unfortunate Meanwell !" would she cry out, "Why did not sacred friendship limit your sentiments for me ?—But still more unfortunate Louisa," added she, "destined to give pain, where from gratitude and inclination she ought to give the most satisfaction."—At length, after mature deliberation, she determined, should either Mr. or Mrs. Meanwell acquaint her with his sentiments, she then would own to them her being engaged to another, as such an avowal could not

not be looked upon as a breach of her promise to Lord Belmont, as long as she concealed his name. And her rectitude of mind prompted her the more to it, as she thought it but justice to Mr. Meanwell, in order to put a stop at once to his (perhaps) growing hopes. After this resolution, she felt herself rather more composed, and sleep having likewise befriended her, she arose the following morning in tolerable good spirits. Mr. Meanwell breakfasted with his father and the ladies, and appeared not quite so dejected as he had done the evening before Lady Sweetland and her daughters called on them, and both Mrs. Meanwell and Louisa accompanied them into Kensington-gardens. From that time the ladies were scarcely ever asunder at their leisure hours, and frequently Dr. Meanwell and his son were of their party.

A whole

A whole month was now elapsed, during which, Mr. Meanwell's health and spirits so visibly declined, as alarmed his father and sister exceedingly. The latter, knowing the source from whence his dejection originated, interrogated him about it, and offered him all the service in her power with Miss Rivers ; upon which he opened his heart to his sister, and thanking her for her offered assistance, declared, at the same time, he was sure her intercession in his behalf would prove fruitless. For although Miss Rivers honoured him with a sincere friendship, yet as a lover she would reject him.

“ I'll try that, my dear brother,” said Mrs. Meanwell, “ and till I bring you her refusal of you, from herself, I beg you will not despair. Should, on the other hand, your suggestions prove true, you must then, in your turn, exert your utmost

" utmost reason, and do all in your
" power to regain your lost health."

Mrs. Meanwell then went up to Louisa, who she found in tears. That amiable young lady was hurt beyond expression at the melancholy situation of Mr. Meanwell on her account, and her incapacity of contributing towards his recovery. Her friend, rather low in spirits herself, having asked her the cause of her grief, and not receiving a satisfactory answer, said, " My dear Miss Rivers, I am come at a very improper time, being myself a mournful petitioner, and will take another opportunity to mention my suit, as I would, on no account whatever, add to your affliction."— " Speak, my dear friend," replied Louisa, " and let not the fear of increasing my grief prevent your implying your request to me. You say it is mournful—then let us associate

“ ciate in melancholy, by rendering
“ it mutual.”—Mrs. Meanwell then,
after proper apologies, acquainted
Louisa with the state of her brother’s
heart, his sufferings, and his humility,
which had hitherto proved a bar to the
declaring of his sentiments. Louisa,
in a flood of tears, interrupted her,
and cried out, “ Say no more, my
“ dear Mrs. Meanwell, I know it all.”
“ What,” replied her friend, with
surprise, “ did my brother ever speak
“ to you on the subject?”—“ Oh
“ no,” answered she, “ his looks,
“ his behaviour, and his ill state of
“ health, have long informed me he
“ cherished an hopeless passion, and
“ that myself was the miserable being
“ that had inspired him with it. Un-
“ fortunate young man,” added she,
“ would you had never seen me.”—
“ You really astonish me, my dear
“ Louisa:—you speak affectionately
“ of

" of my brother—you pity him—then
 " what impediment prevents you
 " making him happy?" A previous
 " engagement with one of the wor-
 " thiest of mankind, amiable and vir-
 " tuous like Mr. Meanwell. Forgive
 " me, my dear friend, the having
 " kept this a secret; it is the only cir-
 " cumstance in my life I have ever hid
 " from you, and for no other reason,
 " than the not being authorised to re-
 " veal it. My happiness, and that of
 " the object in question, depends en-
 " tirely on its remaining concealed,
 " till such time he can assert his own
 " right, and claim me publicly as his
 " own. Your way of thinking is too
 " noble to think meanly of me for
 " the having deposited this in no
 " other breast but my own. And—"
 " Think meanly of you, my dear
 " Miss Rivers," interrupted Mrs.
 Meanwell, and embracing her most

affectionately, "No—I esteem and
" revere you the more for it. Was it
" not prohibited your communicating
" this precious tie and bond of love
" and friendship? Then what right
" could any one assume to be entitled
" to the information of it? My best
" thanks are due to your generosity,
" which I cannot sufficiently admire,
" that instead of letting my brother
" languish as he hath done for some
" time, you, when called upon to
" relieve him, at once point out your
" impossibility of effectuating it. I
" will not even ask the name, or any
" circumstance relating to the estimable
" object of your attachment, for esti-
" mable he must be whom Miss
" Rivers judges worthy of her affec-
" tions." Louisa only thanked her
with her eyes glistening with tears.
Then said, with a sigh, "What can
" be done for your poor brother?"—

“ My brother has sense, honour, and
“ reason,” replied Mrs. Meanwell,
“ and they must be his guide, and
“ assist him in transplanting his love
“ for you, and in its stead admit
“ esteem, and unfeigned friendship.
“ I will likewise propose, with the
“ approbation of my father (to whom
“ I shall impart the confidence you
“ have been so good as to place in me),
“ a journey to Bath, where I will
“ keep my brother, till such time as I
“ find he is reconciled to his fate. Va-
“ riety of objects (I will not say dissi-
“ pation alone) have often been effi-
“ cacious on the minds of young men.
“ You, in the mean time, my dear,
“ shall pay a visit to Lord and Lady
“ Sweetland, where you will reside
“ till my return from Bath, when I
“ hope I shall again be favoured with
“ your amiable company, if agreeable
“ to your own inclinations, and that
“ my

“ my brother can behold you without
“ danger to himself. Sorry I am that
“ I shall be compelled to this excursion
“ without you, I could wish never to
“ be parted from you : but your own
“ repose, and my brother’s health,
“ render it expedient to try what
“ absence can operate.” Louisa, in
her turn, assured Mrs. Meanwell of
her unalterable friendship for her and
family, and much approved of the
scheme she intended to put in execu-
tion. Agreeable to this resolution,
Mrs. Meanwell acquainted her father
with her brother’s situation, and with
the conversation she had had with Miss
Rivers relating to it. The Doctor was
sorry for his son, though not at all sur-
prised he had placed his affections on
an object so amiable and so deserving.
He entirely coincided with his daugh-
ter’s plan of their going to Bath, espe-
cially as he could confide in Lord and

Lady Sweetland, where Miss Rivers was to reside during their absence, and left the care and management of his son entirely to Mrs. Meanwell. As soon as she entered her brother's apartment, he presaged from her looks no favourable tidings for him. And on having asked her whether Miss Rivers was offended with his presumption, she answered in the negative—"But" added, "I will not flatter you, my dear Tom; Miss Rivers esteems you as her dear friend, who has been her guardian angel, her deliverer, and her protector. But"—and then paused.—"I understand you," interrupted he, "I must not hope." His sister then gave him an ample detail of what had passed between the young lady and herself, who, as she said, felt inexpressible sorrow at her being the cause of his indisposition; and expatiated largely on her strict sense of honour, which made
her

her consider herself as already married; acquainted him with the resolution her father and herself had taken of accompanying him to Bath, where they hoped the change of air, objects, and amusements, but, above all, his own judgment and reason, would effectually co-operate, to bring him to a due reflection of what he owed to himself as a man of honour and probity, and to the young lady who generously had avowed, her being neither mistress of her hand and heart, and who, in order to restore him to his former tranquillity, had partly sacrificed a precious secret on which her future happiness in life depended. The melancholy youth fetched a deep sigh, and said, "Divided from Miss Rivers, all climates are alike to me. Lead me where you please, and I'll follow you. Generous maid," added he, "do you honour me so far with your

“ compassion, as occasion your tears
“ to flow ? Oh, pardon my aspiring
“ thoughts—ignorant of the situation
“ of your heart, I have fed and nou-
“ rished a flame which, I fear, will
“ prove fatal to my repose, though,
“ I trust, not to yours. Whatever
“ efforts I can be master of, I will
“ employ to extinguish that hopeless
“ passion, to deserve that friendship
“ you so amicably offer. Nor will I
“ return, or present myself before
“ you, till I have gained a complete
“ conquest over myself, and can be-
“ hold you with reverence, esteem,
“ and respect.” Then turning to his
sister, he said, “ Be as expeditious as
“ you please with the preparations for
“ our journey, for the sooner I leave
“ London the better. Miss Rivers, I
“ suppose, retires to Lady Sweetland’s.
“ And happy I am she has found so
“ honourable an asylum, with such
“ worthy

" worthy friends." Mrs. Meanwell answering in the affirmative, added, that the very afternoon her father and herself proposed to set off with him for Windsor, in their way to Bath, and spend two or three days there, as it could not be very agreeable to him to pass another night under the same roof with Miss Rivers, circumstanced as she was. " I hope," interrupted he, " I may be permitted to take my leave of her"—Undoubtedly, answered she, " if you are not apprehensive of increasing your melancholy." " Nothing can add to it," replied he, " as my exile is voluntary." Louisa was then informed of the success Mrs. Meanwell had met with, relating to her brother's journey, and immediately wrote to Lady Sweetland, acquainting her, as Mr. Meanwell's indisposition (of which she was not ignorant, tho' she was to the cause of it) required instant

fiant change of air ; and having obtained permission of Dr. and Mrs. Meanwell to pass the few weeks of their absence with her ladyship, should it prove agreeable and convenient to her ; she therefore intended waiting on her that afternoon, as her friends proposed to leave London about three o'clock. Lady Sweetland, overjoyed at the thoughts of having Louisa with her, sent an answer full of thanks at the preference she gave her, and that she would have the pleasure of calling on her herself to conduct her to her house before dinner : and begged, in the mean time, she would be so good as to order her trunks to be made ready, as she would send her chairmen to fetch them. Dr. Meanwell and his family were as much affected at their parting with Louisa, as she herself could possibly be, as she had a real attachment to them all, exclusive of her gratitude, for the many benevolent

nevolent and kind actions she had received from them. And having communicated Lady Sweetland's note to Mrs. Meanwell, she advised her, that the instant her ladyship arrived, she should take that opportunity of taking leave of her father and brother, which she observed—for the instant the carriage stopped, her friend conducted her first to the doctor, who embraced her with a father's affection, blessed her, and even dropped a tear as he expressed his wish of her returning again to them on their leaving Bath: which she faithfully promised to do. Her parting from Mr. Meanwell, to whom her friend then led her, was one of the most mournful scenes that can be described. Few words were employed on the occasion, but mutual heart-piercing looks too well demonstrated their sympathising grief, though proceeding from different causes. The unfortunate youth advancing to-

wards her, and respectfully kissing her hand, said, "Your kind pardon, Ma-
dam, is all what is now left me to
hope for. May you be happy as
you deserve! Say but you forgive
me, and I'll endeavour to deserve it."
"My pardon, Mr. Meanwell," said
Louisa, with a faltering voice and
streaming eye, "you ever had it! and
if my concern, affliction, and pity,
for your situation could restore you
to what you once was, you would
soon be happy." Mr. Meanwell
bowed and sighed. And his sister judged
a longer conference would prove preju-
dicial to him, led Louisa out of the
room and conducted her to Lady Sweet-
land, who was in the drawing-room
conversing with Dr. Meanwell, waiting
the arrival of the ladies. That lady
was a little surprised at the dejected
countenance of Louisa, which her red
and swell'n eyes but too much demon-
strated.

strated ; but soon ascribed it to the excessive sensibility of her heart, which felt severely at the parting from dear and respectable friends, especially as their separation was occasioned by the indisposition of a worthy young man, deservingly the object of his father and sister's tenderness, and of her esteem.

Dr. Meanwell taking Louisa affectionately by the hand, and presenting her to Lady Sweetland, said, " Madam,
 " I here deliver you up a treasure,
 " which nothing but a parent's claim
 " and my son's illness could have in-
 " duced me to part from : but sure of
 " her safety under your protection, I am
 " happy to leave her in such worthy
 " hands. I must, however, take the
 " liberty to add, that on our return
 " from Bath, I shall hope you will
 " make no difficulty of restoring her
 " to the arms of those who now, with
 " the utmost regret and reluctance,

E 6 " leave

" leave her behind them ; flattering
" myself, in the mean time, this be-
" loved child will not alienate her af-
" fections from us, but return to us
" with that cheerfulness and satisfa-
" tion as her separation from us now
" causes us pain."

Lady Sweetland without hesitation assented to his request, as being both equitable and reasonable. Poor Louisa only answered with looks of gratitude and acquiescence. The Doctor then embracing her with a paternal affection, said, " Heaven bless you, my child ; be good, and happy." Mrs. Meanwell then approaching, embraced her, but unable to speak, hung on her neck, and in silent grief bid her adieu. Louisa, in dumb but elegant affliction, returned her friend's farewell, and, conducted by the good Doctor, who had not quitted her hand, stepped into the carriage, where Lady Sweetland followed.

lowed her; they drove off without much conversation on either side, as that lady respected her young friend's affliction too much to disturb her indulgence of it too soon.

Arriving in Portman square, Lord Sweetland received Louisa with the affection of a father. The young ladies likewise testified their satisfaction at seeing her, by every friendly look and complacency in their power. A few select friends of Lord and Lady Sweetland's dined there that day, all desiring to see Miss Rivers, of whom every one had heard, but few had seen; and she, as usual, charmed the whole company. Invitations on all sides were given her, which she accepted in such a manner, as did her infinite honour. In short, after a few days residence at Lord Sweetland's, she became the idol of that nobleman and his lady, and was beloved by their children, to whom she acted

the

the part of a governante whenever their mother was absent ; she likewise accompanied that lady in her visits, and was even privately introduced to their Majesties, who had desired to see her, she having declined the being publicly presented at St. James's. The satisfaction with which she was received every where ; the praises she heard from all mouths of her worthy father ; the favourable news she had from Bath, as she constantly corresponded with Mrs. Meanwell, whose brother did all in his power to regain his serenity of mind ; and the constant good tidings she had from her dear Mrs. Pianelli, soon reinstated her in her former health and accustomed flow of spirits, which added such a lustre to her beauty, as few could behold with tranquillity.

Being now upon the most intimate footing with Lady Sweetland, as heretofore she had been with the unfortunate

nate Madame de Polignac, having few secrets uncommunicated to each other, her friend asked her one morning, what it was that had occasioned her excessive affliction at her leaving Dr. Meanwell and family?

Louisa blushed like scarlet at this question; its coming quite unexpected, made her incapable of giving a direct reply; and betraying by her countenance what she for ever wished to conceal, made Lady Sweetland immediately conjecture that something more than tranquil placid friendship could occasion the emotion in her friend's looks, and said, laughing, "I'll engage young Meanwell was enamoured of you, and you proved cruel. Lord Sweetland," continued she, "hath made the observation more than once, that whenever the young gentleman was in your company, you alone were the object of his attention."

Louisa

Louisa having recovered a little from her surprize, said, " I hope, Lady Sweetland, you will believe me when I assure you, that I have been exceedingly unhappy on that account, as Mr. Meanwell deserves to be happy in every sense of the word ; and though I had determined the cause of his indisposition should never have escaped my lips, yet as I find you are partly informed of it from Lord Sweetland's observations, and unaccustomed to disguise the truth by an evasive answer, I am willing to give you every information in my power relating to that circumstance, trusting it will be as secretly deposited in your breast as hitherto it has been concealed in mine." —

Upon which Louisa gave her friend a faithful detail of the whole, not even omitting her previous engagement with another,

another, solely reserving to herself the name and quality of the beloved object.

“ Generous girl !” said Lady Sweetland, as Louisa had done speaking, and was wiping off a trickling tear that was ready to drop, “ your tender sentiments are a glory to you. Unhappy Meanwell ! would another object, disengaged and deserving, had attracted you, and then you might have been happy ; however, his good sense, joined to the impossibility of obtaining you, will, I doubt not, in due time restore him to his accustomed tranquillity, difficult as it is to be divested from an attachment to such superior merit as your’s. I must, in my turn,” continued she, now reveal a secret to you, which would not long have remained one, as you are the principal person concerned to be informed of it, and I am glad our conversation has paved

“ the

“ the way towards my acquainting
“ you with it. Lord Melmoth, who
“ sometimes visits here, and who has
“ frequently seen you at church, at the
“ opera, and amongst the circle of my
“ acquaintance, is deeply smitten with
“ you, and aspires to form a connec-
“ tion for life with you. As he visits
“ now and then at your uncle's, he
“ has made many inquiries about you,
“ but not receiving any satisfactory
“ answer from those savages, he has
“ taken Lord Sweetland to task, and
“ being desirous to know whether your
“ mind was as excellent as your form
“ is beautiful, has asked him a thou-
“ sand questions concerning you. You
“ may be assured that my Lord has
“ drawn your picture without any flat-
“ tery. The next question then was,
“ whether you were disengaged with
“ regard to your affections, as in that
“ case he would have the honour of
“ making

“ making you the formidable proposal
“ of becoming your lord and husband:
“ My good unsuspecting Lord, having
“ formed an idea from your uniform
“ behaviour and manner to all men
“ who strive to gain your good graces,
“ and reckoning without his host, an-
“ swered in the negative. Upon which
“ his Lordship asked permission to visit
“ you on his return from Berkshire,
“ where he has a very good estate,
“ which he is daily improving, and is
“ gone there now for a few days only
“ to inspect a plantation, his presence
“ being requested by his steward on
“ that account. I need not enum-
“ rate his good qualities by way of re-
“ commendation; but to acquit my-
“ self of my promise to Lord Sweet-
“ land, I am to add, his person is hand-
“ some, but that you know already;
“ his morals untainted, and his family
“ and fortune noble: but, my sweet
“ girl

“ girl, your being engaged, and beyond all doubt to a deserving object, makes all pleadings in favour of another needless; nor need you fear to hear any more of Lord Melmoth either from me or Lord Sweetland.”

Louisa thanked her kindly for the information, as it enabled her to put a stop to his growing hopes, having for some time perceived his remarkable distinction of her in preference to other ladies; and understanding from Mrs. Chatwell, his Lordship intended to solicit her hand at the ensuing ball of Lady Springwood's, she would now beg the favour that Lord Sweetland would do her the honour of becoming her partner that evening, as she would thereby prevent any conversation with Lord Melmoth, which dancing for so many hours with the same person (as that was to be the etiquette there) frequently favours. Lady Sweetland

com-

commended her discretion, and said, laughing, " Could you not have fixed
" on any other except my Lord ? Who
" knows but I shall be jealous ?" —

" When that shall prove the case," said Louisa in the same joking style,
" only acquaint me with it, and I'll
" immediately change my partner."

This important point being settled, Lord Melmoth on his return being informed by his friend of Louisa's situation, gave her no farther uneasiness ; he being a man of strict honour, and looking upon her engagement as sacred, he regretted his disappointment, but bore it with patience.

Thus Louisa continued happy, in enjoying the friendship of Lord and Lady Sweetland, and the esteem of all who knew her ; she had likewise the satisfaction of hearing good accounts from Mrs. Meanwell, who with her father and brother were set off for the south

south of France; the Doctor having an inclination to see that part of the continent, as well for his own amusement, as for the entire recovery of his son's health, who was much better than what they had expected him to have been.

The fourteen months being now elapsed which were to render Lord Belmont master of his person and fortune, and Louisa not hearing the least syllable about him, began to be uneasy and pensive; her spirits likewise forsook her, and the roses on her cheeks daily lost their bloom: though she used every effort in her power to appear cheerful, by joining in all the amusements of dancing and music.

Lady Sweetland, ever attentive to what concerned her, saw with regret this change in her favourite, and guessing at the cause, proposed a tour to Brighthelmstone, being certain the company, and the salubrity of the air, would have

have a good effect upon her; and Louisa, always ready to comply with her friend's requests, immediately agreed to the putting it in execution. Lord Sweetland, Lady Maria, and Lady Emma were to be of the party. It being now the night season for assembling at the fashionable place, the necessary preparations were soon accomplished, and our amiable party set off the very day Louisa had completed her nineteenth year. When they arrived at Brighthelmstone, the beauty of Louisa attracted the eyes of all beholders; and the first time of her appearance at the ball, brought such a concourse of company into the ball room, that the dancers had scarce space left to dance in: however, when she was called upon for the minuet, a place was procured, that she might not be impeded in her steps, and such an universal silence was observed, and such repeated

repeated expressions of admiration were heard throughout the whole assembly when she had finished, as demonstrated but too well that she excelled all there present. The cotillons and country dances she acquitted herself of with the same ease and elegance as in her minuet. All eyes were fixed upon her, and every tongue seemed ready to speak her praise. The attention of the company towards her created the most amiable confusion in her looks, and the animation of her spirits by dancing, both together made her appear more beautiful than ever.

Among the number of those who contemplated her in silence, was a middle-aged gentleman, of an elegant figure, and a countenance on which benevolence and benignity pourtrayed; though some shades of sorrow had dared to attack, and at times appeared to have clouded the brightness of his eyes, from

from which humanity and good humour beamed forth incessantly. As the room was exceedingly crowded, her partner with some difficulty conducted her to a seat just where the above-mentioned gentleman was standing, who testified great satisfaction in his looks at his being so near her ; and though he hardly ever withdrew his eyes from her, yet it was with such modesty and humility, that Louisa could not be offended, his manner of contemplating her being so different to that of Lord Crofflove's on a similar occasion at Florence : nay, she seemed rather to take pleasure in his attention towards her ; and her partner being called away, she offered the vacant seat to the amiable stranger, as supposing him tired of standing, which he accepted with every mark of contentment. He made an essay of entering into conversation with her, but seemed at a loss

for words how to address her ; but whenever he did speak to her, the answers she gave him charmed him beyond expression, and an unspeakable inward satisfaction diffused itself over his countenance. Lady Sweetland and her daughters then joined her, which prevented his continuing the attempted conversation. He immediately rose from his seat, offering it to that lady, and lamented it was not in his power to procure chairs for the two young ladies with her. She thanked him in the most polite manner, but begged he would excuse her accepting of it, she having been seated almost all the evening, and had observed him all that time deprived of a seat ; as to the children, they had just engaged themselves to join in the cotillion, which after being finished would make a chair very acceptable to them : the stranger, however, kept standing, which induced

Lady

Lady Sweetland to sit down next to Louisa, of whom she asked, who was that amiable man she had been chatting with. "A new lover," added she, "I'll give you my word."—"I should be heartily sorry should that prove the case," replied Louisa; "and infinitely more so than I was on Mr. Meanwell's account: and for once, I dare aver, your Ladyship is mistaken, as he hath not addressed me either with a lover's look or speech, but with an air infinitely more interesting and agreeable to my mind. He is a perfect stranger here, I perceive, as I have not observed his speaking to any one in the company besides myself; nor hath any one here vouchsafed to enter into conversation with him, which, if he is a foreigner, as I think his accent speaks him, must give him but a very indifferent opinion of English

" urbanity."—" So warm in his be-
" half, my dear, looks suspicious,"
said Lady Sweetland, smiling. " Nay,
" my dear friend," replied Louisa,
" no joking, I beg. I must repeat it,
" he does not look upon me with the
" eyes of a lover, and it would hurt
" me beyond expression should your
" words prove true; but your partia-
" lity for me makes you fancy that
" most men are my admirers."—" They
" undoubtedly are so," replied Lady
Sweetland: " but here is your partner,"
continued she; " are you disposed for
" another cotillion, and then, if you
" please, we will retire."—" When-
" ever you think proper," answered
Louisa, looking at her watch; " it is
" now near twelve o'clock, and I had
" better not begin another dance." Her
partner then earnestly entreated her, she
would honour him with one more
dance, and Lady Sweetland likewise
begging

begging she would oblige him, she once more joined the jovial train, and as before charmed the whole assembly. Lady Sweetland was very desirous to have had a little conversation with the stranger, but his attention was so entirely fixed on Louisa, while she was dancing, and as there were several persons between herself and him, she found it impossible to accomplish her design.

The cotillon over, Louisa was conducted by her partner to where she was seated, and her daughters likewise coming to her, she begged one of the gentlemen to be so kind to call her carriage, intending, after they had rested a little, to return home, which accordingly she did soon after, being conducted to her coach, as well as Louisa, and her children, each by a cavalier, to the great mortification of the stranger, who would fain have had that honour, as his looks proclaimed it but too well, but

the crowd between the charming Louisa and himself prevented his approaching her. Lady Sweetland and herself looked at him, however, as apologising for their abrupt departure, and he, taking it in that sense, bowed most respectfully to them both, as acknowledging their intended civility. After they were gone, he became restless, melancholy, and impatient to know who this beautiful creature could be, for whom he found himself so much interested, and who had thus captivated, and gained the hearts of the whole company. And unacquainted as he was with, and to every one there, he determined to ask the person who stood near him for some information about her. Unfortunately, the person to whom he addressed himself, knew nothing concerning her, but that she was the most beautiful person upon earth. A second, not much better instructed, said her name was

Mean-

Meanwell, and that she was the daughter of a clergyman. A third and fourth said she was the daughter of Lord Sweetland, and the ladies who accompanied her, were her mother and her sisters. Another again affirmed her to be only a relation of Lord Sweetland's, and not his daughter. The stranger, overjoyed at the name of Lord Sweetland, exclaimed in raptures—"Is his "Lordship here? I much wish to see "him, he was my intimate friend "twenty years ago." This exclamation, and the tone of voice with which it was uttered, drew upon him the attention of several gentlemen who before had not noticed him, and judging from his manner and behaviour that he was a gentleman, and from his dress, which although plain, but exceedingly neat, that he was a man of fortune, gave him all the information in their power relating to Lord Sweetland's habitation in

London, as well as to the house he then occupied at Brighton. The stranger thanked them in the most polite terms, and not finding any thing remaining, after Louisa's departure, that engaged his attention, soon after repaired to his own lodgings. My reader hath undoubtedly already guessed who this amiable stranger could be, to whom Louisa had been so particularly attentive, contrary to her accustomed behaviour to men in general. But lest he should not, I have the pleasure to inform him, that it was no other than our long-lost worthy, and heretofore unfortunate Captain Rivers; who being freed from slavery, after near thirteen years captivity, was restored to his country, to his friends, and to his darling daughter, with a princely fortune. But as I am not willing to anticipate too much the joy every benevolent mind must feel, at the deliverance of the most

most amiable of men from sufferings and almost unparalleled hardships, but lead them on by degrees, from his calamities, to the height of happiness he had to hope for in this world, so I will likewise proceed, in proper order, to inform my reader, how and in what manner he was conducted thither, and am of opinion they will join with me, when I conclude he was led there by an all-ruling Providence. It is also necessary I should step back and bring our second hero, our amiable Lord Belmont upon the stage, as his circumstances were now so connected with those of Captain Rivers, that I cannot well name the one without making mention of the other. That unfortunate young nobleman had borne his exile into Switzerland with a religious patience. The last time we spoke of him was when he was at Bologna, on his journey he knew not whither, and his

writing to Louisa in the garden with a pencil, unsuspected by his uncle, to whom he pretended marking the names of shrubs, plants, &c. which note he gave to the postillion, who faithfully delivered it to Miss Rivers. From that time, he never heard the least syllable relating to the object of his esteem, and most tender affection. Not even his mother, who had frequently written to him during his absence, ever mentioned her name, or that of Mad. de Polignac. Such a marked taciturnity, if I may so call an obstinate silence on a subject, to all appearance indifferent to him, (as he never had avowed to any one living his attachment for Louisa, herself and the Marchioness only excepted) made him extremely cautious in what he wrote, and he designedly totally omitted their names. Trusting entirely to Louisa's honour, her apparent inclination towards him, and to Madame de Polignac's

nac's friendship and promised good offices in his behalf. Often did he call to mind and ponder upon the words of his beloved Louisa, that she owed him a confidence. What could it mean? That she was not of that country, neither a relation of those noble personages with whom she resided, but entirely dependant on their friendship. Of an honourable family she was, the Marchioness had assured him. She might not have been a Florentine, but of French extraction, perhaps. That she was beautiful and lovely, his eyes had told him the first time he had ever beheld her, and his heart assured him she was possessed of every virtue a human mind could be blessed with. What then could be the secret she wished to have imparted to him? This perplexed him at times very much, and made him uneasy, as he was totally incapable of forming any conjecture of what nature:

the secret could be. Sometimes he fancied that either her father, uncle, or brother, or any other relation of hers, had, through a misguided conduct, come to an untimely or ignominious end. But then, supposing it so, could she help it, and was she answerable for errors or crimes committed by her parents? Oh, no—would he say to himself: there is even cruelty in the suggestion of such a thought. Sometimes he would suppose one thing, and sometimes another, with regard to this secret, but always exonerated her, and ever concluded with, let it be what it would, she was essential to his happiness, which never could exist without her becoming his for life. Thus did he pass fourteen tedious months at Geneva, and other parts of Switzerland, cultivating and improving his mind to the utmost of his power: soothing and relieving his melancholy at times, by
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the reliance he had on the word of his beloved mistress, and with the flattering hopes, that his absence was no less painful to her than his exile proved to him ; till the happy day arrived on which he completed his twenty-sixth year, on which day his father's will was accomplished, his dependance on his tyrannical uncle terminated, and he found himself master of a princely fortune, and of all his actions. How glorious did that period appear to him ! And with what earnest solicitude did he order every necessary preparation for his departure from Geneva—and what satisfaction did he not promise himself, when arrived at Florence, to lay his hand, heart and fortune, at the feet of his charming, timid, and blushing bride, who, he flattered himself, would not any longer oppose his happiness, but, without reluctance, receive his hand, and become his for ever. He received on that very day

day a letter of congratulation of the agent Lord Crofslove had employed in the management of the estates, which were now become his, acquainting him with having a large sum of money in his hands, and requested his orders (being now his own master) how, or in what manner he chose it should be employed. Lord Belmont having answered this letter, and settled every other affair, to the satisfaction of all with whom he had been connected, left Geneva, and pursuing his journey to Florence, with all imaginable expedition, where, however, he no sooner arrived, but all his hopes of promised happiness were at once dashed to the ground by the heart-breaking information he received, of the loss of the beloved of his soul, at least of her departure from that place to some unknown region, and of the melancholy catastrophe of the unfortunate Marquis de Polignac,

Polignac, and his still more unfortunate wife. The landlord of the inn who gave him this information (for Lord Belmont had preferred going to an inn, previous to his presenting himself before his mother and uncle, in order to be acquainted a little with what had passed during his absence from Florence) being a communicative man, gave him likewise an ample detail of Lord Crosslove's persecution of Mademoiselle de Polignac (as Louisa was frequently called, and some who had heard her real name, through an erroneous pronunciation both in France and in Italy, called her Mademoiselle Reverse, instead of Rivers, which occasioned Lord Belmont to be ignorant of the reality of her family name, time not having permitted him to have had that intelligence from herself; and he imagined she might have been a Mademoiselle de Polignac, although not related to the

Mar-

Marquis's family). The landlord continued in his narration—and how, in his pursuit of her, he (Lord Crosslove) had had a fall from his horse, and had broken his leg, which had confined him to his apartment for near five months; and which accident having occasioned his being lame, and the loss of the lady, had rendered him infinitely more surly and ill-tempered than he had ever been before. The unhappy Belmont stood unmoved, like a statue, at this recital. At last he exclaimed, “Don’t talk to
“ me of Lord Crosslove—would to
“ heaven he had broke his neck instead
“ of his leg! Tell me, to what place is
“ it supposed Mademoiselle is fled to—
“ for fly away she did from my cruel
“ persecuting uncle—and who accom-
“ panied her?”—“To Great Britain
“ it is conjectured,” replied the land-
lord; “but Signor Pharmace, the fur-
“ geon, who rescued the lady from out
“ of

" of Lord Crosslove's hands, can give
" you ample information about it."

" Let him be sent for," said Lord Belmont. Signor Pharmace instantly appeared, and acquainted his lordship with every circumstance of that event, as far as within his knowledge: as Mr. Meanwell had not exactly told Pharmace the place of their destination, but had (through fear of Lord Crosslove's pursuing her to England) mentioned Ireland as the wished-for port. And when asked by Lord Belmont, who it was that had accompanied her thither? he answered, a Mr. Meenel, instead of Meanwell, from the similitude of the sound (he never having seen the name written), a clergyman of the Anglicane Church, who, with his sister, had taken all imaginable care of her: but he unfortunately forgot the mentioning of Mr. de Bonfoi, the brother of the late unfortunate Marchioness

ness de Polignac, who was the principal actor at that time in the family : if he had, Lord Belmont would have immediately set off for Paris, where he would have been informed of all his heart wished for. But Pharmace naming only Mr. Meanwell, as the acting agent, and his having besides but a very imperfect knowledge of the Marquis's family or connections, he confined his information merely to what had been executed and transacted by Mr. Meanwell. Lord Belmont thanked his stars that his amiable bride had escaped Lord Crosslove's fury, and that she was protected by some of his country people, especially a clergyman, which character he had ever revered, and resolved to set off for Ireland, after having paid his duty to his mother ; as to his uncle, he did not think him entitled to any. Accordingly, he waited on Lady Belmont, who received
him

him with open arms, and scarce had he received her caresses, when Lord Crosslove came hobbling into the room, and addressed him with a—
“ Well, George! are you come to
“ fulfil your engagement with Miss
“ Dupeley?”—“ I am not accountable
“ for my actions now to your Lord-
“ ship,” answered he: “ your tyran-
“ nical despotic power over me hath
“ ceased. I will, however, give you
“ one satisfaction, which is, that I
“ never was engaged, either in words,
“ or intention, to Miss Dupeley,
“ which that lady will do me the jus-
“ tice to confirm.”—“ The world is
“ of another opinion,” replied the
young lady, “ it has always been sup-
“ posed I was reserved for you.”—
“ Reserved for me!” asked he with
emotion—“ It was my mother’s wish,”
continued he, “ I should attach my-
“ self to you, but I must take the li-
“ berty

" berty to assure you, it has never
" been in my power to comply with
" her request—sensible we were never
" born for each other; nor can you
" accuse me of having ever given you
" the most minute reason to suppose I
" had any other sentiment for you
" than those of common civility,
" which all men owe to your sex:
" and as my relation, and out of re-
" spect to my mother, you certainly
" was entitled to politeness on my
" part (which I have fulfilled), but
" not to my attachment."—"And
" can you be such a scoundrel," said
Lord Crosslove, " to deceive a young
" woman in such a manner, after hav-
" ing nourished the warmest hopes of
" becoming Lady Belmont?"—"Your
" lordship may spare your epithets,"
replied he, " you never had a right to
" make use of them, but now less
" than ever. Is it my fault this young
" lady

“ lady hath deluded herself with false
“ hopes of becoming my wife? What
“ right had she to expect it?”—“ Your
“ mother’s sanction, and your total
“ silence to the contrary,” replied
Miss Dupeley.—“ My mother I love
“ and esteem,” replied Lord Belmont,
“ but all my filial respect and obe-
“ dience to her, does not empower her
“ to the compelling my inclinations.
“ Herself can witness, I never gave
“ so much as an assenting look to her
“ proposal.”—“ Nor a denying one,”
interrupted Miss Dupely.—“ My re-
“ spect for Lady Belmont,” answered
his Lordship, “ joined to my unwil-
“ lingness of mortifying any lady
“ with a flat denial of her, prevented
“ my answering her in the negative.
“ As her wishes, on that head, were
“ generally uttered in your presence, I
“ limited my replies constantly to the
“ uncertainty of what my inclination
“ might

" might lead me to, when once my
 " own master; but that hitherto I had
 " never felt the least propensity to the
 " forming of a serious connection.
 " And this before a woman of sense,
 " indicated a sufficient refusal of her
 " person." Lady Belmont confirmed,
 that her son had never given her the
 least hopes of his marrying her niece;
 but that she had flattered herself he
 might have been induced to it, by kind
 entreaties, and by a different behaviour
 from that Miss Dupeley had now
 assumed; which, instead of creating
 an affection in the breast of her son
 towards her, served to extinguish it to-
 tally, if any such had ever existed. But
 since she found him averse to her
 wishes, she desired the subject might
 be dropped entirely, he being his own
 master now, and certainly had a right
 to act as he pleased. Lord Belmont
 bowed, and Miss Dupeley, in a voci-

ferous and disappointed tone of voice,
cried out, as she rose to leave the
room, " You have used me basely—
" you and your unworthy son, Lady
" Belmont." — " I'll talk to you by
" and by, Miss," said that lady to her,
" and you do well to quit the apart-
" ment, thereby preventing my or-
" dering you to do it." — " I see well
" enough how it is," cried Lord
Crosslove, " he has a mind to run af-
" ter the French girl, but I'll disap-
" point your hopes there: and I'll
" take care she never comes into your
" clutches." — " I despise your me-
" naces," said Lord Belmont, " and
" it is out of respect for my deceased
" father, that I do not add, his bro-
" ther is below my contempt. I only
" request of you to deliver me up the
" deeds which confirm my right and
" title to my father's estates." Lord
Crosslove, without answering a word,

rang

rang the bell, and ordered a small strong box to be brought in, which he opened, and giving Lord Belmont the requested parchments, added, "Chargewell, the attorney, has the others. Here, young man, you will find every thing fair and honest, as I was not willing to have a halter put about my neck by a jackanapes of a nephew, which he undoubtedly would have done, had I defrauded him but of a single shilling." Then throwing the key of the box on the table, said, "May you spend it as fast as I have taken pains to augment and fave it for you!" Lord Belmont made no reply to this ill-natured expression; but, on the contrary, thanked his Lordship for his care, and hoped he should never have any reason to reproach him with such a glaring want of conduct.

Lord Crosslove then left the room, in order to condole with and console

the

the disappointed Dupeley. Lady Belmont took that opportunity of informing her son of all that had happened to the late Marquis and Madame de Polignac ; and confirmed what he already knew from Pharmace relating to Miss Rivers, of her departure for Ireland with an English clergyman and his sister, both agreeable, sensible, and well-bred people, she said, having seen them with Mademoiselle on her visit of condolance to her, but had forgot their name. There was an unaccountable fatality attending the name of Mr. de Bonföi, brother to the deceased Marchioness, as Lady Belmont, as well as Mr. Pharmace, totally forgot mentioning him, speaking only of Mr. Meanwell, as the acting person there. Lord Belmont having inquired of her how long she intended staying at Florence—“ I have no inclination as yet,” answered she, “ to return to England ; and the

“ less so, as I expect many of my ac-
“ quaintance here, who propose to ac-
“ company me to Rome, after we shall
“ have seen all that is remarkable be-
“ tween this place and that ancient fa-
“ mous city. Lord Crosslove, how-
“ ever, talks of leaving Florence next
“ week, and to reside for a few months
“ in the south of France, previous to
“ his return to England. As to you,
“ my dear,” continued she, “ I sup-
“ pose you will go to London as soon
“ as possible, in order to inspect and
“ examine your affairs there.” — “ It
“ is my intention, Madam,” answered
he, “ to leave Florence in three days
“ at farthest, as neither Lord Crosslove
“ or Miss Dupeley can be very well
“ pleased with my presence.” — “ I shall
“ be sorry to lose you so soon,” said
she, “ but hope when my tour through
“ Italy shall be finished, I shall enjoy
“ your company at home.” Some com-

company coming in, prevented the farther conversation ; and during the few days he remained there, Lady Belmont never mentioned Miss Rivers to him, or ever asked him whether he would endeavour to find her ; knowing her son's delicacy too well, either in refusing to answer her questions, or by an evasive answer conceal the truth of his intentions.

The appointed day for his departure being come, he took an affectionate leave of Lady Belmont, and a respectful one of Lord Crosslove, who was sulky and ill humoured, not having exchanged a word with him since their first meeting, which hath been described. As to Miss Dupeley, she had continually shunned him, and had actually hid herself at his leaving the house, telling Lord Crosslove that he should not have the honour of bidding her adieu.

Our hopeless and melancholy Lord Belmont, hurried out of Italy with as much precipitation as he had entered it, when buoyed up with the pleasing hopes of meeting his beloved there, and arriving at Calais, was detained there by contrary winds, and in his solitary walks frequently met with a gentleman of a noble aspect and a pleasing countenance, but who appeared as solitary as himself.

As sorrow attracts and communicates itself to benevolent minds, so each stranger seemed sensible of, and commiserated by their looks the apparent affliction of the other. Two minds so similar in humanity, and every other virtue, could not be long before mutual offers of service were tendered and accepted; and residing both at Mr. Desein's, the principal inn at Calais, they soon acquainted each other with their name, family, and connections, as like-

likewise with every circumstance relating to themselves, and what had occasioned their respective distress.

It is not at all difficult for the reader to guess, that this noble stranger Lord Belmont met with, was our amiable Capt. Rivers, who I have now brought a second time upon the stage without entering into a detail of his long sufferings, and his happy deliverance; but intent with all due expedition to satisfy all those who, like me, rejoice in his recovered liberty, health, and wealth.

Capt. Rivers was perfectly well acquainted with Lord Belmont's family in England, although he was not with his Lordship, whose tender age, at the time he quitted London for Dublin, had left him as yet unnoticed to those advanced in riper years; nor was the Captain's family unknown to Lord Belmont, having been at Eaton school with the two eldest sons of Earl Rivers,

of whom he could not, however, give the most favourable account to their uncle. This mutual knowledge, and the similitude of their sorrow, rendered them infinitely dear to each other; and though the one was in pursuit of a long-lost amiable daughter, and the other of a tenderly beloved mistress, which being but one and the same object, yet there was such an obscurity, such a veil drawn over every circumstance relating to Miss Rivers, that it was impossible either of them could imagine that the daughter and the bride were but one person. The difference of the country of which he supposed her to be a native, alone destroyed the probability of such a suggestion. Lord Belmont's affairs compelled him to come to England before he could set off for Ireland. Captain Rivers returned from Ireland, and likewise from France, in search of his dear child, but she

she was not to be found in either kingdom. His determination then was to travel first all over England; and should that search prove ineffectual, the whole world should be traversed by him, till he should find her, or receive authentic proofs of her non-existence: for what availed his newly acquired liberty, or immense riches, if his only child, the child of affliction and sorrow, the darling of his heart, and the representative of her angelic mother, was lost to him; no earthly joy could compensate such a loss; and his mind would continue, in that case, as much a slave to bitterness of grief, as his body had been nearly eleven years at Algiers.

The wind proving at last fair, our worthy friends embarked together for Dover, where we shall leave them tossed by the winds, which blew them to the Sussex shore, and in the mean time give

an account of Captain River's deliverance from slavery.

We left this unhappy man lamenting his hard fate at Tunisma, in the gardens of Eben Eli, where he continued for some time inconsolable. Providence, however, that ever watches over the truly unfortunate, inspired him with patience and resignation ; and his lot became less and less severe, by having constantly a better hereafter in view. Sleep again befriended him, and the wretched food allotted him became more and more palatable ; and recovering his health and strength, he laboured with the utmost assiduity, and very soon became a kind of favourite with the overseer, who in time provided him with a better lodging, distinct from that of the other slaves ; his aliment was, likewise, superior to that of the rest : yet notwithstanding that well-deserved partiality, this petty tyrant had

had never sufficient humanity to allow him pen, ink, and paper, though he frequently had requested it.

Eben Ali often came to Tunisma, accompanied by a large party of his friends and acquaintance ; and although delighted with the prodigious improvements, and the beauties so manifestly produced, through the skill and talents of the Captain, in his gardens and plantations, yet this despotic moor would never exchange a syllable with the unfortunate captive, but looked at him with an haughty insolence, full of disdain and scorn. Fatima, his favourite wife, sometimes accompanied him, but never had the satisfaction of seeing the Captain excepting the first time her husband conducted her into the garden. Her esteem and affection towards him was not in the least diminished : and after having in time past begged and entreated Eben to accept of the unfor-

tunate European's offered ransom, and so set him at liberty, and had been always repulsed, and even at last with some severity, she had given over her solicitations in his behalf, as finding them vain and fruitless. When she first beheld him in the gardens, her heart informed her he was the object of her compassion ; for although years had passed away since her first seeing him, the change in his complexion, which had suffered much from the sun, and the different garb that he now wore from that in which she beheld him, had not in the least obliterated him from her memory. She still found in him that noble countenance, that fortitude of mind, and that inexpressible assability and respectful sweetness in his eyes, which at first sight had attracted her attention towards him. The Captain, on his side, immediately knew her, although her face was partly covered with

with a veil ; and his satisfaction beamed forth instantly from his eyes, when on making her a most profound reverence, she gently waved her hand, and advanced three or four steps towards him, as if wanting to speak to him ; which Eben Ali no sooner observed, than he ordered the Captain to be locked up till such time Fatima should leave the gardens : which command was instantly put in execution. This circumstance again renewed this amiable man's grief, and the more so, as he never saw her at Tunisma after this. Time, however, reconciled him once more to his abject state, flattering himself with the certain idea, that it could not last for ever, as death sooner or later would put a period to his sufferings. Upwards of eleven years did he continue in this deplorable situation, when it pleased Providence to release him from a painful slavery, which religion only, and a firm reli-

ance on a happy futurity, had enabled him to support.

One morning the overseer, finding him at his accustomed work, approached him with a servile civility and entreaties to follow him into the house. Captain Rivers obeyed, and was struck with amazement on his entering into a large saloon, with the magnificence of the furniture, as more becoming a monarch than a dealer in slaves, especially as the Algerines are generally remarkable for the simplicity of their taste in that respect. The overseer immediately taking off his chains, pronounced him free. Upon which several slaves approached him, to take off his dress, the badge of slavery, and pointing to a rich moorish habit that was provided for him, whilst others were preparing, a bath, filled with aromatic herbs, to make use of previously to his dressing himself. Captain Rivers, astonished beyond

beyond description at what he saw, asked what this mockery meant, as he had not the least idea of his approaching happiness. "No mockery, great lord," answered he, "it is by the orders of the mighty Fatima, who wishes to see you."—"Fatima!" exclaimed he in a tone of joy, "have you at last prevailed upon your husband to grant me my liberty?—Oh, may kind Heaven restore me my daughter, and the remainder of this life shall be devoted to your service. Where is Eben Ali?" said he to the overseer; "conduct me to him, that with my thanks I may direct him where to receive my ransom."—"Great lord," replied he, "the mighty Eben Ali is at Algiers; but his signet accompanied the orders of Fatima to lead you to her: a chariot is prepared, and slaves to attend you thither."—"Gracious heaven!"

ex-

exclaimed the Captain, “ shall I again
“ revisit my native country, and be-
“ hold my long-lost beloved child? Or
“ is it illusion, is it a dream, that lifts
“ me up thus, in order to be dashed
“ more severely against that rock on
“ which for so many years I have
“ split?” The overseer then begged of
him not to delay, as Fatima’s com-
mands were to use all possible expedi-
tion to convey him to Algiers for rea-
sons of moment. The Captain scarcely
knowing what to think, or what to do,
addressed his most fervent thanks to
that all-gracious power that had thus
delivered him from a life worse than
death, and restored him to that liberty
which, next to health, is the greatest
blessing. Then having with all ima-
ginable haste performed the ceremony
of bathing and dressing, he desired to be
conducted to the chariot. The over-
seer replied, it was ready; and added,

a col-

a collation was prepared for him in the next room, of which, if he pleased, he might partake before his departure. The Captain followed his leader into an adjoining apartment, where a table was spread with the most exquisite refreshments : but his heart was too much oppressed with hope and fear to admit room for appetite ; he therefore hurried into the chariot, which was drawn by six fleet Barbary horses, and attended by six slaves, all equally well mounted, he soon arrived at the house of Eben Ali, at Algiers. He was instantly introduced to Fatima, whom he found sitting crosslegged, according to the custom of the Moors, on a sopha, raised about a foot from the ground, covered with carpets ; she was supported by cushions, and appeared in a languid and weak state of health. “ Approach, noble Christian,” said she, “ long have I wished to assist and

“ to

“ to relieve you, but my power has
“ ever proved inadequate to my will.
“ Now you behold me free, and mis-
“ tress of my actions. Delivered,
“ like you, from our mutual tyrant,
“ the first use I make of it is to give
“ you your liberty.” Captain Rivers
bowed himself to the ground, and
with the most heart-felt gratitude re-
turned thanks to his generous deli-
verer; who, with a benevolent aspect
said to him, “ Give me an account of
“ your adventures, and who you are,
“ and in my turn I will inform you
“ of my misfortunes.” And having
ordered coffee, sherbet, and fruit, and
desired the Captain to place himself
near her on the carpet, the Algerines
not using chairs, after refreshing him-
self, she requested him to begin his
narration, with which he immediately
complied; and finished, with begging
her permission to go in quest of his
long

long lost child, which having once recovered, his life should be at her disposal, if she would so far honour him as to accept of his services. Fatima thanked him, both for the account he gave of himself, and the offer of his services to her, and said, “ Nothing “ is more just than to endeavour to “ find your daughter. And as to your “ devoting your life to me—alas ! “ time hath been, when I should have “ placed my glory in the having be- “ longed to you ; but now, your gra- “ titude and sentiments of generosity “ are useless to me : my thread of life “ will soon be cut asunder ; one satis- “ faction is left me, that before my “ soul takes its flight into an unknown “ region, I shall make one deserving “ mortal happy.”

The Captain sincerely touched with this melancholy prelude, asked her in the most affectionate manner—whether
it

it was in the power of medicine to restore her to health; and begged to know the nature of her indisposition, assuring her, in the most tender expressions imaginable, to use his utmost efforts for her recovery. "All aid is
"vain," replied Fatima, "for Eben
"Ali, our common tyrant, hath car-
"ried the effects of his ill-grounded
"jealousy even beyond the grave."—
"What!" exclaimed the Captain
with surprise, "Is Eben Ali dead?"
"He is," replied she, "and dreading
"I should become the property of
"another after his death, especially
"your's, he, during a fevere illness,
"of which it was impossible he could
"recover, prepared a lingering poison
"for me, which never fails to procure
"certain death; he having frequent-
"ly tried its fatal effects on those who
"not like me) refused to be subservi-
"ent to his will. My patience and
"humi-

“ humility inspired him with what
“ he called, unparalleled love for me,
“ but which I considered as detestable
“ brutality, despotism, and tyranny.
“ Being as yet but a child when he
“ bought me as a slave, my infant
“ looks pleased him, and when of a
“ proper age, he married me, dispos-
“ ing, at the same time, of every fe-
“ male slave in his house, excepting
“ those whom age and deformity had
“ reduced to become menial servants :
“ and I became sole reigning empress
“ of his heart. That heart—totally
“ insensible to the soft sensations of
“ friendship and humanity, and where
“ nothing but excess of self-love and
“ cruelty was lodged. How have I
“ humbled myself, and what repeated
“ trials have I not made, to awaken
“ but one spark of tenderness (in his
“ stubborn soul) towards you, even
“ in those moments, when the pro-

“ testations

“ testations of his affections were at
“ that height, that he would have
“ laid all his possessions at my feet.
“ And although I only sued for a mi-
“ tigation of those hardships I was in-
“ formed were to be imposed upon
“ you, he refused me with barbarity,
“ when at the same time I have seen
“ him lift up his sabre and strike off,
“ at one blow, the head of any slave,
“ who, in the smallest trifle, had not
“ punctually obeyed my orders. This
“ horrid disposition, so repugnant to
“ my soul, gave me a detestation of
“ him, and of life itself. Fly from
“ him I could not, being guarded by
“ bolts, bars, locks, and the eyes of
“ my tormenting Argus. I left off so-
“ liciting in your behalf, finding it
“ fruitless : and it was with the ut-
“ most difficulty I could find five mi-
“ nutes to speak in private to the in-
“ strument of his vengeance, the over-
“ seer,

“ feer, in order to provide you with
“ better food, and a more commodi-
“ ous lodging, as Eben Ali took de-
“ light in repeating to me the distresses
“ you laboured under.” The Captain
testified his thanks for this kind attention
to him, by a profound reverence, not
being willing to interrupt her, when she
continued — “ Eben Ali having con-
“ ceived an accountable jealousy of
“ you, especially since that time I
“ beheld you in the garden, when my
“ compassion for you proved stronger
“ than my prudence, and inclined
“ me to speak to you; for which, I
“ doubt not, you was severely pu-
“ nished. From that time I never
“ accompanied him to Tunisima, as I
“ preferred being locked up and barri-
“ caded, to the misery I endured of
“ seeing you ill-treated. Suffice it to
“ say, that my tyrant fell ill, and
“ there being no hopes left of his re-

“ covery,

“ cōvery, he sent to such of his
“ friends, as he thought necessary to
“ witness a deed of gift, by which he
“ made me heiress to all his immense
“ possessions, in case I survived him,
“ as a proof of his violent love and
“ adoration of me. I silently blessed
“ my fate at the prospect of becoming
“ so soon the mistress of my actions ;
“ which satisfaction, however, was
“ greatly disturbed by the visible de-
“ cline of my health ; as I was fre-
“ quently seized with fainting fits,
“ which generally gave place to ex-
“ cruciating pains in my stomach,
“ which the monster seemed to enjoy
“ with inexpressible pleasure, and
“ would often exclaim, ‘ Oh, my
“ Fatima, sovereign mistress of my
“ heart, one grave at last will hold us
“ both ! Fate hath been propitious to
“ my wishes, that no man whatever
“ shall possess you after my death.

“ How

" How delightful then, and how well
 " come to me, are those spasms with
 " which I see you attacked, as they
 " certainly unite us in death.' As I
 " was never more in love with life,
 " than at that time, seeing his end
 " approach faster and faster, yet I
 " was constrained to appear satisfied
 " with his inhuman wishes, lest he
 " should have strangled me before his
 " own dissolution. I dissembled then
 " as much as I was able; and though
 " my fits returned more frequently,
 " yet the pains gradually diminished
 " as my strength decreased every day.
 " Yesterday's sun had scarce appeared
 " when he called me up from the
 " matt, on which I repos'd by his
 " couch, and said to me, 'Fatima,
 " Death hath appeared to me with all
 " its grim attendants: I have but one
 " satisfaction in leaving this globe—
 " you cannot survive me above three

“ or four days, which you must pass
“ in your devotion. Conscious that
“ your heart leaned towards that
“ Christian dog at Tunisma, I have
“ administered slow poison to you in
“ the coffee you daily drank, it has
“ operated partly to my wishes, tho'
“ not altogether so, since my vital
“ breath must be stopped, before your
“ eyes will be shut up in everlasting
“ darkness. Your life is hurrying to
“ its end; I know the effect of the
“ poison, from the frequent experi-
“ ments I have made on objects of my
“ hatred, but to you I gave it as the
“ object of my love. Give me then
“ in return the last embrace and
“ thanks for having preserved you en-
“ tirely to myself.' I was furiously
“ enraged at this speech of the tyrant,
“ and was prepared to upbraid him
“ with all the bitterness my soul was
“ then capable of, when he was seized
“ with

“ with convulsions, which, for some
“ minutes, I beheld with transports
“ of joy, but my heart soon sickened
“ at the sight, I dropped a tear, and
“ my compassion taking place of ha-
“ tred and abhorrence, I called in my
“ female slaves to succour him, if
“ possible; for notwithstanding that
“ my pity was roused for his situation,
“ yet I held him undeserving of the
“ least assistance from myself. De-
“ spairing at my dismal fate, which
“ prevented my being united to you,
“ should it have proved agreeable to
“ yourself; for, unaccustomed to dis-
“ guise my sentiments, and having
“ ever been debarred from the com-
“ merce of those of my sex who were
“ able to have instructed me in the
“ proper decorum of female behaviour,
“ I consulted only my own heart, sen-
“ sible it meant our mutual happi-
“ ness, founded on honour and vir-

“ tue, in the proposal I intended to
“ have made you. But my approach-
“ ing end barring that wished-for fe-
“ licity, my only care was now your-
“ self, first to set you free, and then
“ to put you in possession of that im-
“ mense wealth the tyrant bequeathed
“ to me, not with a view I should be
“ happy with it after his decease, he
“ knowing but too well I could not
“ enjoy it long, and not caring what
“ became of his riches after his de-
“ mise and mine, from want of huma-
“ nity, that did not even furnish him
“ with an idea, how many perishing
“ objects it might have rendered com-
“ fortable, by having it made over to
“ them, after my vital blood should
“ have ceased to flow. It then become
“ me to think of the unfortunate,
“ among whom, you stood first in the
“ list, as being dear to my heart, and
“ deserving of my affection. Certain

“ of

" of your generosity and benevolence,
 " which would relieve such of the af-
 " flicted as stood most in need of as-
 " sistance : I therefore took the pre-
 " caution to make myself immediately
 " mistress of his signet—that passport
 " of all his commands. Then taking
 " his keys which held his treasures of
 " diamonds, pearls, and gold, the
 " two first articles, to which I have
 " joined my own ornaments, which
 " are not inconsiderable, I deposited
 " them in this casket, with which I
 " now present you. The gold and
 " silver coin is lodged in that chest
 " (pointing at the same time towards
 " it), and here is the key which opens
 " it (giving it him with the casket).
 " My next care was to charge my fe-
 " male slaves not to stir out of the
 " apartment till my return thither. I
 " then went to that part of the house
 " allotted for the male slaves (who

H 2 " were

“ were ignorant of their master's situation), and ordered a chariot, with
“ six of the best horses, and as many
“ slaves on horseback to attend, in or-
“ der to fetch you from Tunisma, and
“ to treat you as if you had been Ali
“ himself: giving them, at the same
“ time, his signet, which I have again
“ received. As those unhappy men
“ worshipped me as a Deity, and with
“ more affection than they obeyed
“ their master from duty, they bowed
“ themselves to the ground, in token
“ of obeisance, and in a few minutes
“ I had the satisfaction to see them all
“ mounted, and take the road to Tu-
“ nisma. My heart then became
“ calm, and I returned to my apart-
“ ment, where Eben Ali was yet
“ struggling with the pangs of death.
“ I called in the rest of my domestics
“ to give him all the assistance in their
“ power. And feeling my resentment

“ all

" all at once give way, I sincerely
 " forgave him my approaching end ;
 " and drawing near his couch, to wipe
 " away the drops of anguish which
 " stood upon his face, when sudden-
 " ly he opened his eyes, fixing them
 " upon me, and with a look the most
 " savage I ever beheld, he made an
 " effort to seize me by the throat, as
 " if to strangle me ; I screamed, and
 " started back, and his strength fail-
 " ing, he dropped his hand, rolled his
 " eye-balls, and uttering a dreadful
 " imprecation and hideous groan, he
 " expired.—The satisfaction displayed
 " on the countenance of my slaves,
 " convinced me how welcome the
 " death of the tyrant was to them
 " all ; though their respect for me
 " kept them mute. I was soon after
 " seized with one of my accustomed
 " fits, which, by its duration, made
 " me apprehend the losing the satis-

H 3. " faction

“ faction of making you happy, as I
“ feared I could not live till your ar-
“ rival. I am, however, recovered,
“ and am willing to make the best use
“ of those moments which are yet
“ spared me, by advising you to send
“ for several Europeans, of whom
“ there are many in Algiers, as you
“ will see in a list, where their names
“ and places of abode are marked
“ down. Make them your friends by
“ rich presents, and let them provide
“ you with a ship to convey you from
“ hence, as secretly as possible, for
“ fear the Moors pursuing you, on
“ account of your newly-acquired
“ possessions. But let me obtain one
“ favour of you, which is, not to quit
“ me till death shall divide you from
“ me. For you alone I could wish
“ to live! To your daughter I could
“ wish to act a mother's part, in ten-
“ derness and affection, but”—here a
“ flood

flood of tears intercepted her farther utterance. The Captain fell on his knees, wiping off the tears which bedewed her lovely countenance, then kissing her hand, thanked her in terms which denoted perfectly the high sense he had of her benevolence, humanity, and goodness, towards him. Fatima, as much pleased with his gratitude, as she was with herself for having promoted it, thought of an expedient to secure his safety after her death, which was, by sending for some friends who were sincerely attached to her, and to marry the Captain in their presence, according to the Moorish laws, whereby he should become unmolested master of all her possessions, and less liable to persecution from her countrymen, as he could not obtain a passport for his safe departure, there being at that time no European Consul at Algiers, as every Christian Power had declared

war against that kingdom : accordingly, she made the proposal to Captain Rivers, who accepted of it, not only for his own safety, but out of gratitude for her unparallelled goodness towards him, and to accomplish his offer of devoting his life to her service. Their union took place that very day ; and the Captain, by the advice of Fatima, sold every thing which had belonged to Eben Ali ; such as houses, land, plantations, &c. He likewise redeemed from slavery above fifty unfortunate Europeans, all of whom he ordered to repair on board the ship which was to sail with him for Europe ; providing them all with Moorish habits, to be the less distinguished. His liberality shewed itself every where, the consequence of which was, that whether Moor or Turk he employed in his several expeditions, all seemed willing to serve him, and to obey his
com-

commands with pleasure. Serenity and tranquillity of mind would have once more become an inhabitant of the Captain's bosom, had it not been checked by the impossibility of conveying letters to his beloved daughter, Dr. Worthy, Mrs. Birch, &c. as none could depart from Algiers without being opened, which at once would have made him known to be a Christian, and from that event alone, every other circumstance, relating to himself, might be traced, and, perhaps, a deprivation of his wealth—and what would have been infinitely worse, a second bondage, in all probability, would have ensued. The gentle Fatima's declining health gave him likewise inexpressible inquietudes, and nothing was wanting on his side to make those few days she did live with him, as happy as her deplorable situation would admit of. Often would she exclaim,

H. 5. that.

that in the few days she had passed with him, she had enjoyed more felicity, than ever she experienced during the twelve years she had been Ali's wife: and that those happy hours more than compensated for the rigorous treatment she had met with from her husband: but that which crowned her bliss, was the seeing him free, and enabled, through her means, to pass the remainder of his life in social comfort with his child and countrymen, so as to make him forget the miseries he had endured in slavery. Ten days were now elapsed since his union with Fatima, who he anxiously wished to have conveyed on board his ship, which had been manned and stored, and was ready to set sail, flattering himself, could she but once reach Montpellier in the south of France, the excellent skill of those of the faculty there, might, perhaps, afford her relief, and

prolong her days, who were now become extremely dear to him ; for the sweetness of her disposition, joined to the patience with which she bore her painful decline, promised him permanent happiness with her : but this he found impossible to accomplish, she being so debilitated, and her fits returned so frequently, that he feared her dissolution hourly. He himself had endeavoured to expel the consuming poison that preyed upon her vitals, by every gentle antidote his knowledge furnished him with, but all in vain. And she fell a victim to Ali's cruelty on the thirteenth day of her happiness, as she stiled it, and expired without any pang in the arms of her beloved husband, whom she tenderly embraced, and, with a smile on her countenance, bid him an everlasting farewell. The Captain lamented her loss with all the bitterness of grief, a

heart like his, replete with virtue, was capable of. For, exclusive of his gratitude, which was unbounded, she was a truly amiable woman, of excellent principles and good morals, which had they been cultivated in Europe, she would have proved an ornament to her sex : she was besides possessed of exquisite beauty, her skin being of a delicate white, which denoted but too well her not being an African ; and having been at a tender age introduced into Ali's house, she was ignorant of the place of her nativity, as well as of the name and condition of her parents, and had hardly completed her twenty-fifth year when she died.

Captain Rivers paid her, in her interment, all the honours due to her merit, and to the fortune she had been possessed of ; and attended her corpse to the funeral, dropping a sincere and friendly tear over her grave. After liberally

berally rewarding all those that had belonged to Eben Ali, and giving them all their freedom besides, he set forward towards his ship, taking with him the casket, containing the jewels, and bills of exchange from the most capital merchants in Algiers, to those in different parts of Europe, and found himself possessed of upwards of one hundred thousand pounds sterling, exclusive of diamonds, pearls, &c.—
“ Amiable Fatima,” would he cry out, when alone in his cabin, “ it is to your goodness alone I owe this prodigious wealth ! Would it had pleased Providence you had been a sharer in it ! In a very little time, I am certain, you would have been as much mistress of my heart, as ever my dear Charlotte was the wife of my affection. Your amiable qualities, and unspeakable generosity, tied me to you with the strongest

“ strongest bonds of gratitude. And
“ your friendship for me had so ef-
“ fectually overpowered my inclina-
“ tions towards you, as left no other
“ wish than to live and die for you.
“ My Louisa, my, perhaps, lost
“ child, would have loved and revered
“ you as a mother, and as a friend
“ that had restored her father to liber-
“ ty and life!—Again are you become
“ my only care. Ye gracious Powers,
“ that have thus miraculously pre-
“ served me, complete your blessings
“ by granting me to behold my daugh-
“ ter!” The wind proving a little
favourable, the Captain, had a most
prosperous voyage, and in due time
arrived in Ireland, where, having dis-
posed of his ship, and discharged all
his attendants, and presented every
one of them with a sum of money, he
hired two Europeans to attend him in
search of his daughter: but, to his
inexpres-

inexpressible grief, he could not receive the least intelligence about her. He was informed of the death of Dr. Worthy, and of that of Mrs. Birch. But no one could tell him what was become of Birch himself, who, with his children, had quitted the village, to shelter him from his creditors, being much involved in debt, by the having led a dissolute life since his wife's decease. The minister of the parish was likewise entirely unacquainted with every circumstance relating to Miss Rivers; his predecessor, who had seen her, and to whom she had given her direction when she accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Pianelli to France, had been dead for some years. And what was the more remarkable, that although there were still some of the same inhabitants remaining in the village, and he did not leave a house unsearched in his inquiries, no one could afford him

the

the least satisfaction : till, at last, a lad belonging to a public-house, that very house where formerly its honest land-lord had given such an advantageous picture of Mademoiselle Doucette to Signor Pianelli, but who was now settled in another place ; this lad said he remembered the pretty Miss Rivers very well, who, after Mrs. Birch's death, went to live with a French milliner, who took her with her to France, but he could not recollect her name. It occurred immediately to the Captain, that this could be no other milliner than that very Mademoiselle who lived in the village, during his residence there, and of whom his beloved Charlotte often would buy one trifle or other : but his long absence from the place, and the many misfortunes which had befallen him since that time, had entirely obliterated her name from his memory. With no other infor-

information than what he had obtained from this lad, he determined to set out for Paris: and not only find out and enquire after every milliner there, but would likewise search every province in France, till such time as he should find or receive intelligence of his beloved child. For without her, what was life to him but a dreary desert, without friends, that is, such as he wished in reality to call so, and without acquaintance to form a social connection with—a stranger to all those he formerly had known, what prospect of felicity could he hope for, but that of assisting the miserable, with that wealth bounteous Heaven had bestoweded on him with his liberty? Fatima too, who, from the sweetness of her disposition, could have soothed those pangs which the loss of his child inevitably would inflict on him—she likewise was gone for ever. But, would
he

he add, why despair! Why murmur against the decrees of an all-ruling Providence! Perhaps this child, I now with such eagerness seek, may, when found, overwhelm me in greater grief than what I hitherto have experienced. Who knows what her conduct may have been during my painful absence—into what society she may have been thrown—to what misery she may have been exposed—Gracious Goodness! if she yet lives, grant I may behold her virtuous, though ever so necessitous! These and other similar ideas occupied his mind till he arrived in Paris; but his search there after his child proved as fruitless as that in Ireland had been. Among the great and powerful he had not the least conception of either meeting with, or hearing from her, as he imagined her to be in a most abject state. At last he came to a resolution of having a circumstantial detail, relating to him-

himself and daughter, inserted in all the public papers, as that undoubtedly would procure him some light with regard to her situation. But from this he was diverted by an account he received, of a person answering the description of Mademoiselle Doucette, accompanied by a very handsome young English woman, having come to settle in Paris, from Ireland, as milliners; but not meeting with the desired success, they had quitted that capital for London, where they now resided. The Captain immediately repaired to the house they had occupied before they departed from France, and obtained nearly the same information, as likewise the name of the elder person, but could not learn that of the younger. His inclination then instantly led him to set off, with all possible expedition, for London, not chusing to advertise her publicly, till he had made inquiries about her in that metropolis,

polis, leaving, however, his address with the master of the hotel, with entreaties to continue his inquiries, and to send him notice of his success. When he arrived at Calais, he met with Belmont, as has been already quoted, as likewise their mutual confidence in each other, relating their respective loss, and their embarking together for Dover, when the wind blew them to the Sussex shore instead of that of Kent. They were landed in a small boat at Brightelm-stone, that theatre of fashionable amusements, when an idea struck the Captain that at that season of the year, shoals of milliners resorted to that spot, and among them there was a probability he might hear of his beloved child. He was the more inclined to this inquisition, as he was prevented in pursuing his journey for London that day, by the indisposition of Lord Belmont, who being seized with a kind of ague, retired to bed

bed immediately after his landing. The Captain was indefatigable in his inquiries after his Louisa, which all proved abortive : though he in reality met with the milliner, touching whom, he had received intelligence of a supposition, that his daughter had accompanied her : but he no sooner saw the young English woman in question, but was instantly convinced it was not her, both from her age, which was near thirty, and the account the young woman gave of herself, and of her parents, who were yet living in London, where she was born. And although he was ignorant of the shape and figure of his daughter, after so long an absence, yet, at first sight of the young milliner, he was convinced she was not Louisa, her complexion, and the colour of her eyes, instantly destroyed the suggestion.

Vexed,

Vexed, fatigued, and grieved to the soul, the disconsolate Captain returned to his friend, whom he found rather better, and acquainted him with his disappointment. Lord Belmont advised him, as he had hitherto sought for Miss Rivers among the lower class of mankind, to change his objects, and to direct his inquiries to those in a higher sphere; for, added he, the promising genius and increasing abilities, joined to the misfortunes of the young lady, might, in all probability, have induced some benevolent woman of fashion and fortune to take her under protection: therefore, continued he, try what information the ball room may afford you this evening.

The Captain highly approved the idea; accordingly he dressed, and repaired to the room, though with a heavy heart and hopeless expectation. I have already observed his appearance there,

there, and his melancholy aspect, which excluded him from all conversation with the heterogeneous group. The impression his amiable daughter had made upon him, her affability and politeness towards him, her solicitude to provide him with a seat, and the erroneous account he had received relating to her parentage, as likewise the satisfaction of Lord Sweetland's being at Brighthelmstone, and seeing his lady, who, at that time, as well as Louisa, was entirely unknown to him ; all this has been already mentioned.

Reserving, then, all farther inquiries about his unhappy child, and referring them to Lord Sweetland, who he determined to visit the next morning, he left the rooms, and returned to Lord Belmont, with a cheerful countenance, though with a heart not less oppressed with anxious doubts and fears.

fears. His friend entertained great hopes from the Captain's interview with Lord Sweetland the ensuing morning; which being arrived, at a proper hour Captain Rivers waited on that nobleman, who but the instant before had left the house to enjoy a walk by the seaside, and whom he would have joined had it not been for Lady Sweetland's accidentally crossing the hall just as he had uttered his intention of joining her Lord, and politely requested his walking in, and to sit down, as Lord Sweetland's return would not exceed five minutes. Captain Rivers obeyed her Ladyship's commands, and being seated, inquired after the health of the young ladies whom he had seen at the ball with her the evening before, and whether they were her daughters? — “ The two youngest are,” answered she; “ the eldest is the child of my affection,

“ but

" but not at all related to me." The Captain was just prepared to ask some questions about Louisa, when Lord Sweetland entered, and with him two ladies, intimate acquaintances of his Lady's, who desiring her opinion on a fashionable poem just then published, she withdrew with them, after having introduced the stranger to her Lord, who she informed him came to wait on him, and was the gentleman of whom she and her children had received so much attention and civility the evening before.

Lord Sweetland addressed himself to the Captain, and begged to know who he had the honour of speaking to ; who, in answer, said, " I am not at all surprised that after almost two and twenty years absence from England, Lord Sweetland does not recollect one who formerly had the happiness of being high in his esteem.

“ esteem. You, my Lord, whose
“ countenance bears no marks of mis-
“ fortunes, are not otherwise altered,
“ than what such a term of years na-
“ turally brings along with it. You,
“ my heart recognised at your enter-
“ ing the room. Look at me, and
“ try if you can trace no remembrance
“ of your former friend and fellow
“ collegian.”—“ Alas, Sir!” replied
his Lordship, looking stedfastly on
him, “ I dare not utter who I wish
“ you to be, lest I should be mistaken;
“ and my disappointment in not find-
“ ing in you the friend of my bosom,
“ the brave, the worthy, and the too
“ unfortunate Captain Rivers, to
“ whom you bear a most strong re-
“ semblance, would”—“ Enough,
“ enough!” interrupted the Captain,
and falling on his Lordship’s neck he
exclaimed, “ I am the same, the long-
“ lost, unfortunate Rivers, restored to
“ life,

" life, freedom, and wealth—and, Oh,
 " could I add, to happiness! though
 " that felicity, yet imperfect, I now
 " enjoy at the sight of my worthy
 " friend, whom I now press in those
 " arms, from which he has been so
 " long estranged; and to find that
 " warmth of friendship, which former-
 " ly subsisted between us, still glow-
 " with the same ardour, exempts me
 " from being entirely miserable, when
 " I behold Lord Sweetland, whose sa-
 " cred friendship so amply repays mine."

" Ye all-gracious Powers," exclaimed
 his Lordship, " and do I again behold
 " my Rivers—the friend of my soul,
 " and of my earliest affections! Where
 " have you been, how, and when
 " brought hither—what propitious star
 " conducted you to this shore? Have
 " you seen your Louisa? Where is
 " she?"—" That question," interrupt-
 ed the Captain, " damps all my joy,

“ and runs like a shivering ague thro’
 “ all my veins. Alas, she is lost, at least
 “ to me, I fear—lost for ever.”—“ Lost
 “ for ever!” replied Lord Sweetland
 with astonishment, “ has the joy of
 “ seeing you overpowered her gentle
 “ spirit, and closed her eyes for ever?”
 “ Of seeing me!” said the Captain,
 heaving a bitter sigh, “ Alas, my friend,
 “ I have not seen her, nor can I find
 “ her, though I have over-run two
 “ kingdoms for that purpose!”—“ Not
 “ seen her!” exclaimed Lord Sweet-
 land: “ why, my dear friend, this is
 “ all a riddle to me! Have you not
 “ been informed that the young lady
 “ you so much admired last night at
 “ the ball was Miss Rivers, your
 “ daughter, and my dearly beloved
 “ adopted child?”—“ All-ruling Pro-
 “ vidence,” exclaimed the Captain,
 “ this bliss is too much—too much in-
 “ deed!” and immediately swooned
away.

away. Lord Sweetland, astonished beyond conception at what he had heard, and now saw, to all appearance, his friend lifeless; and not having any water at hand, rang the bell repeatedly, with some violence, which at last brought Lady Sweetland herself into the room, just as the Captain opened his eyes and recovered, without the assistance of water. Her ladyship was soon informed of the cause, and thanked Heaven for this so much wished-for event: but prudently begged he would not too soon discover himself to his lovely daughter, for fear of fatal consequences, as her heart and sentiments were of that delicate nature, as could not encounter with such a sudden, and such an unexpected change in her situation; although she had supported herself with wonderful courage in the many scenes of adversity she had experienced. Captain Rivers thanked her for the caution,

assuring her, he would be as prudent as she herself could possibly be under such circumstances ; and entreated her to prepare the sweet girl of seeing her now happy father, who for so many years had been lost to her and to the world. That he, in the mean time, would solicit Lord Sweetland to acquaint him how his dear Louisa had been supported, and how long she had been under his and Lady Sweetland's protection ; and that he, on his part, would inform them of every particular relating to his long absence, whenever they should be disposed to hear it. Lord Sweetland immediately gave the Captain a cursory detail relating to his daughter, referring him to her, however, and to her journal, for particulars. Whilst Lady Sweetland informed Louisa, that the amiable stranger was still locked up with Lord Sweetland, and that, by what she had been able to gather from their conversation,

tion, during her short stay in the room with them, was, that he came in search of a daughter whom he had left in Ireland fifteen years ago, and was not now to be found. " And who " knows, my dear Miss Rivers," continued she, " but this very man, who " thus attracted your notice last night, " may be your noble, your worthy " father; and I am rather more inclin- " ed to suppose it, from my observa- " tion, that there is a great resem- " blance in your looks, particularly " when you smile: I thought so last " night in the ball-room, but the few " moments I passed with him this " morning, confirmed it to me more " and more." " Ah, my dear ma- " dam," said Louisa, " you certainly " know more of this stranger than you " chuse to acquaint me with. For " goodness sake ease my troubled " mind, and if it is my honoured and

" much-lamented father—Oh let me
 " throw myself into his arms—let me
 " receive his paternal benediction!—
 " Or if it is a friend of his, to bring
 " some intelligence about him, let me
 " see him—let me ask a thousand
 " questions about my long-lost parent!
 " Heaven grant, however, that this
 " stranger, let him be who he will,
 " if not my father, is not come to
 " confirm his being effectually lost to
 " me." Here she sighed, and her co-
 lour forsook her, as if she had actually
 heard of her father's death: which
 Lady Sweetland observing, said,
 " Why will my dear friend anticipate
 " even imagined sorrow! Though the
 " stranger appeared oppressed with
 " grief and melancholy, yet it seemed
 " rather to proceed from his having
 " sustained an uncertain, an ideal loss,
 " in his search after a beloved and long
 " absent child. Heaven grant it may
 " be

" be your father! and if so, prepare
 " to receive him with transports of
 " joy, instead of streaming eyes. You
 " know he was an intimate friend of
 " Lord Sweetland's, when both young
 " men; and that he preferred to speak
 " to him, instead of me, who am un-
 " known to him. His fixed regard
 " upon you last night, the similitude
 " in your countenance to his, all
 " unite to prepossess me with a strong
 " and firm opinion, that it is the ami-
 " able Captain, who, perhaps, had
 " but an imperfect account relating to
 " your residence; and as it is impos-
 " sible, after so long a separation, he
 " could have known you, it being
 " evident, had that been the case, he
 " would not have contented himself
 " with implicitly contemplating his
 " child, an effort too strong for na-
 " ture to support, but would have
 " given you demonstrative proofs of
 " his

" his being nearly and dearly related
 " to you, though in a full assembly.
 " Every combined circumstance then
 " favours my opinion. And as he
 " undoubtedly, after our quitting the
 " ball-room, hath made inquiries
 " about you, and receiving informa-
 " tion of your residing with us, his
 " prudence suggested his interrogating
 " Lord Sweetland, previous to his
 " discovering himself to you. Clear
 " up your spirits then, my dear ; and
 " if indulgent Heaven hath been thus
 " propitious to you, in restoring you
 " to your excellent parent, let your first
 " gratitude and thanks be addressed
 " there : and receive him with that
 " external satisfaction and joy, as I
 " am sure you internally will be per-
 " fected with, should my supposition
 " prove true." — My dear Lady Sweet-
 " land, my best beloved friend ! " re-
 plied Louisa, " your words have
 " proved

" proved a comfort to my soul. Oh
 " may you be found a true prophetess !
 " and next to Heaven my thanks, pro-
 " ceeding from a most sincere and
 " grateful heart, will be ever your
 " due. Happy, if in the course of
 " my future life I may be deserving
 " the continuation of that tenderness
 " and affection, I have ever experienced
 " from you." During this conversa-
 tion between the ladies, Lord Sweet-
 land had informed the Captain of
 some of the most material passages in
 his daughter's life and conduct, not by
 an exact or circumstantial detail, time
 not permitting it; but all he had said,
 was so much to the honour and praise
 of our sweet Louisa, that her father,
 impatient to see and embrace her, li-
 mited the account of his misfortunes
 merely to his captivity in Algiers, and
 his redemption from thence, through
 the means of an angelic woman ; re-

serving the particulars to a more proper opportunity, and earnestly requested his friend to conduct him to his daughter, who, he hoped, Lady Sweetland had prepared, by that time, to receive him as her father, in order that his unexpected presence might not have too great an effect on her gentle mind. Lord Sweetland immediately complied with his friend's request, and joining with him in opinion of Louisa's being informed of her happiness, conducted him into the apartment where she was sitting with his lady, and both instantly rose as they entered. Louisa's colour fled from her cheeks, when Lord Sweetland presented the Captain to her, in the following words: "Permit me, Miss Rivers, to introduce to you a dear and worthy friend, whose absence you have for so many years been wailed—and happy am I"—Captain

tain Rivers, unable to suppress his transports of joy any longer, interrupted his friend, by snatching her to his bosom, and crying out: "My
 " Louisa, darling of my soul, best
 " beloved daughter! Do I again be-
 " hold you—and thus blessed with
 " virtue and with friends? Oh, look
 " upon your now happy parent, and
 " blefs me with the name of father!"
 " My father!" exclaimed ~~she~~, throw-
 ing her arms about his neck, and
 bending her head towards his bosom:
 " All-gracious Heaven—Is it not il-
 " lusion? My father!" and fell sense-
 less in his arms. The miserable Cap-
 tain, almost frantic with despair, for
 having, through his rashness (in not
 waiting for Lady Sweetland's sum-
 mons for his appearance before his
 child), reduced himself and daughter
 to an effectual separation from each
 other (as he imagined her dead), called
 for

for assistance on all sides, which was instantly procured, and the amiable Louisa again opened her eyes, calling out, in the sweetest tone of voice—

“ Where is my father ! Oh, let me
“ kneel to him, and ask his blessing !”

“ My blessing, my dearest child,” re-
plied he, “ you ever had ! For though
“ separated from you, you have been
“ the visible care of Providence—Oh,
“ may its goodness ever protect you !”

added he (while the tears trickled
down his manly cheeks). “ But com-

“ pose yourself let me beg of you—
“ never, I hope, shall we be parted

“ any more, until the hour of our fi-
“ nal separation. When you are suf-

“ ficiently recovered, I shall be glad

“ to hear how you have passed your
“ days during my absence, and to

“ whose care (next to that of Heaven)
“ I am indebted in beholding you

“ thus, as my soul has wished.” Lady

Sweetland then interposed, and begged, for that day at least, Miss Rivers might be exempted from giving any account of herself, as it certainly would affect both her and her father too much, as their spirits were already too far exhausted, from the sudden transition of a painful uncertainty, to a happy reality. The Captain immediately acquiesced in her request, although he eagerly wished to be informed of every circumstance relating to his child, whose hand he kept locked in his, kissing alternately that and her cheek, whilst his eyes wandered over her whole person, expressing his satisfaction, and at the same time an eager desire (though unuttered) of having some proofs from herself of her being his, notwithstanding his delight of knowing her to be his daughter was too exquisite to admit of a doubt. Louisa now perfectly recovered, but still confused

fused through her excess of joy, guessed, however, her father's meaning, and begged permission her bracelets might be brought down, for being in a morning dress, her arms were still unadorned with those fashionable ornaments.—The reader may remember, that Captain Rivers, before his departure for Madrid, left with Mrs. Birch, for his daughter, two miniature pictures; the one representing his amiable deceased wife, the other that of his mother, the late Lady Rivers; which, through the generosity of the unfortunate Madame de Polignac, had been converted into bracelets, richly set in brilliants, which Louisa always kept in a box, with the locket, containing that lady's picture, wearing them generally at the same time. Lady Sweetland ordered the box to be brought to Miss Rivers, who, with the most enchanting smile, said to her father, “if,
 “ my

" my dear sir, you think yourself
" composed sufficiently to examine the
" contents of this box, you will find
" I have known how to value your
" presents ; as Mrs. Birch charged
" me, on her death-bed, not to part
" with either of them, nor with a
" prayer-book, likewise left her from
" you to me, for any consideration in
" the world." This was the first par-
ticular, and remarkable instance, the
overjoyed Captain had as yet received
of her being his child, as Lord Sweet-
land had only given him a general ac-
count. He therefore opened the box
with eagerness, and beheld the exact
representatives of two of the most ex-
cellent women that had ever existed,
and who, in their different stations, as
mother and wife, had been ever dear
to him. He compared the pictures
(dropping a tear at the remembrance
of both) with the beautiful coun-
enance

nance of his daughter, and found there was no longer any doubt but she was his Louisa, formerly the child of his sorrow and anguish—but now, that of his felicity. Then taking up the locket, asked whose picture that contained? “That,” answered Louisa, “was another Lady Sweetland to me; “for there cannot exist two souls “more noble, or more magnanimous, “than the lady before you, and my “ever revered Madame de Polignac. “Alike virtuous, alike benevolent, “and alike a most tender and affectionate generous friend and protectress “to your distressed orphan child.”— “Madame de Polignac!” exclaimed “the Captain with amazement. “Was “not she an Italian lady?” continued he.—“She resided there,” answered Louisa, “but was, as well as the “Marquis, a native of France.” “Ye “gracious Powers!” cried her father,

“ What

“ What an unhop'd-for idea rises in
“ my breast: do not be alarmed, my
“ dearest daughter, at a question I must
“ ask, as it is of the utmost import-
“ ance to me, and to a most distin-
“ guished friend of mine. Was not
“ the Marquis de Polignac basely assas-
“ sinated by sharpers?” — “ He was,
“ my dear sir,” said she, “ which was
“ the occasion of his lady's death.” —
“ It must be so—it must be so—there
“ is not the least doubt remaining,”
cried the Captain. “ My dear Louisa,
“ arm yourself with fortitude—an-
“ swer me but one more question, and
“ I shall be easy. Do you know Lord
“ Belmont?” Louisa blushed like scar-
let at the name, and unable to reply,
hung down her head in the utmost
confusion. “ Speak, my amiable child,”
said he, “ and do not scruple to own
“ your esteem for a worthy man, to a
“ father, who is likewise your friend,
“ and

“ and whose happiness is centered in
“ yours.” Here her tears began to
flow, and covering her lovely face with
her apron, “ Pardon, my dear sir,”
said she, “ Oh, pardon your child for
having dared to encourage the hopes
of a truly deserving and virtuous
object, without reflecting it was
you alone had a right to direct, and
to dispose of me. But, believe me,
that till then, I had declined every
engagement, and every proposal,
that had been made me, in the hopes
of having obtained, by your happy
return (which I ever wished for),
your sanction and approbation in my
choice, until I should complete my
twenty-first year. Unless, however,
the object should be such, as by his
virtue, morals, rank, and family,
should not disgrace mine. All these,
I flattered myself, I saw in Lord
Belmont. His respectful attention
for

" for me, his misfortunes, proceeding
" from an arbitrary uncle, the earnest
" solicitations of Mr. and Mad. de Po-
" lignac in his behalf, and"—Here
" Louisa's tears flowed so fast, as to
" prevent her proceeding. " Oh, con-
" tinue, my darling child," said her
father, " and remove far from you that
" false delicacy, which prevents your
" making a confidant of your parent
" in such an important and so wished-
" for a cause." — Then taking her in
his arms, and wiping off the pearly
drops as they fell — the blushing
Louisa, encouraged by her father's
endearing expressions (and not the less
by the last words he had uttered), and
hiding her face in his bosom said,
" Shall I add, my dear sir, that my
" own inclinations, in his favour, led
" me to believe whatever advantageous
" encomiums were bestowed on him,
" which I the less resisted giving credit
" to

“ to, he having made some impressions
“ on my mind the first time I beheld
“ him at Versailles; and from that
“ time endeavoured, to the utmost of
“ my abilities, to conquer the prepos-
“ sition he had inspired me with in his
“ favour; yet, in spite of all my ef-
“ forts, I could not so far regain my
“ former tranquillity, but that his idea
“ would present itself to my imagina-
“ tion. I hope then your child may
“ stand excused, when seeing him a
“ twelvemonth after, I found I had,
“ on my side, inspired him with an
“ esteem for me, which he confessed to
“ Mad. de Polignac, which took its
“ rise from the same instant I had seen
“ him; that at his repeated, earnest en-
“ treaties, and those of my worthy
“ Marchioness, I gave him my pro-
“ mise to remain disengaged till he
“ should become his own master. That
“ period is now arrived, and I am at
“ liberty

“ liberty to declare this important se-
“ cret, which I was enjoined to keep
“ as such, and is the only one my dear
“ Lady Sweetland (turning herself to
“ that lady) I ever have concealed from
“ you. For though compelled to own
“ my heart was not my own, yet, as
“ to its possessor, his name was for
“ ever to remain unrevealed in my
“ breast, till time and circumstances
“ should have authorised me to acquaint
“ you with it. I must likewise add,
“ that since Lord Belmont quitted
“ Florence, I never have heard the least
“ syllable from him, the letter excepted,
“ written by him, in pencil, from
“ Bologna, acquainting me with his
“ banishment, and sent to me by a
“ postillion. With you, my dear
“ madam, I flatter myself to stand ac-
“ quitted of hypocrisy or faithless deal-
“ ings, as the happiness of Lord Bel-
“ mont entirely depended on this se-
“ cret.”

“ cret.” Lady Sweetland bowed approbation of Louisa’s conduct (with a benignant smile), who then again addressed her father, and said, “ Of you,
“ sir, I beg a most gracious pardon.
“ But as your return cancels every en-
“ gagement I have dared to form, in
“ your absence, as your will, must
“ implicitly direct and govern me, I’ll
“ try all in my power to overcome my
“ partiality for Lord Belmont, should
“ it prove disagreeable to you.” —
“ Disagreeable to me !” exclaimed the
“ Captain, “ Oh, no. Come to my
“ arms, thou child of my bosom—thou
“ comforter of my life ! Lord Belmont
“ is the man of my choice—my fellow
“ traveller, and my fellow-sufferer in
“ the loss of a beloved destined wife.
“ How his noble heart will be elated
“ with joy, when he shall be informed
“ that his lovely bride, and my long-
“ lost child, is but one and the same
“ object !

“ object. Heaven grant this happiness may last ! Oh, my daughter—
 “ and such a daughter—such a pattern
 “ of discretion at so tender an age, as
 “ Lord Sweetland hath informed me !
 “ Happy Belmont ! and oh, happy
 “ father, to be blessed with such children ! Can I ever be grateful enough
 “ to that all-ruling Power ? But calm
 “ your emotions, my dearest Louisa,” said he, seeing her extremely agitated.
 The words of ‘ destined wife and
 bride,’ pronounced by the mouth of
 her father, overwhelmed her with such
 an excessive confusion, as covered her
 face alternately with blushes, and a
 deadly paleness. “ Recover, my dearest
 “ child, from that painful delicacy I
 “ see you oppressed with—your sor-
 “ rows, as well as mine, I trust, are
 “ now at an end.” Lord and Lady
 Sweetland animated her as much as
 possible, with the happy prospect be-

fore her, so that she ventured again to look at her father, whose hand she kissed, watering them with her tears, which now flowed from a pleasing, though painful sensation, at the present moment. The Captain then, by degrees, informed her of his meeting with Lord Belmont ; of his excessive anxiety at not finding her in Florence ; his despair for want of intelligence concerning her ; the obscurity relating to her name, family, and country. Louisa having informed him she was not an Italian ; yet she had not mentioned what place claimed her birth. And as to her name, he at first had imagined it was De Polignac, though he had afterwards understood of some Italians, it was Reverse, or Reversa, he never having himself inquired of her about it ; as time nor opportunity ever having permitted him any other conversation, but protestations of esteem

teem and unalterable affection. That under these occult circumstances, he was ignorant where to direct his inquiries ; and all the hopes he had left him, were to seek for her in Ireland (after having transacted some affairs in London), upon the bare information of her having fled from Florence to avoid the persecution of Lord Crosslove, accompanied by a Mr. Meanwell, an English clergyman, and his sister : that he arrived with him at Brightonstone, where the excess of his melancholy, at her supposed non-existence, had indisposed him too much to leave his lodgings, being confined to his bed with a slight fever, which, he trusted, would not now be of long duration, as he intended to inform him of their mutual happiness :—“ And if “ my Louisa is of opinion, that after “ this happy revolution in our circum- “ stances, her spirits are not too much

K 2 “ agitated

“ agitated to receive Lord Belmont, I
“ will introduce him to her this even-
“ ing.” Louisa made no other reply
than with her looks, in which a cer-
tain diffidence announced her not being
able to support, at once, so much un-
expected satisfaction. But Lord Sweet-
land addressing himself to her, said,
“ My dear Miss Rivers, why that
“ mistrust of your fortitude? And
“ why procrastinate Lord Belmont’s
“ felicity, by depriving him of the
“ pleasure of seeing you? He is wor-
“ thy your esteem, and your attention.
“ Then let me beseech you to see him
“ as soon as possible. For this ordeal
“ once past, you will quickly recover
“ your usual serenity: whereas by
“ retarding it, you augment your in-
“ quietude, which, you are convinced,
“ must give way to that excessive timi-
“ dity and delicacy, if not to-day, it
“ must infallibly to-morrow.” Lady
Sweet-

gweetland entirely coincided with her Lord's sentiments ; and added, " If, " my dear, you were not apprised of " Lord Belmont's arrival, I would put " a negative on your seeing him to- " day, as I am sensible so unexpected " an interview would be too much for " you. But that not being the case, " I'll answer for your being possessed " of more fortitude than you yourself " imagine." Her father gently hint- ed it would give him pleasure to see this embarrassment once over. Louisa, with a most enchanting countenance, taking her father's hand, said, " Do " not think, my dear sir, I have any " reluctance to see Lord Belmont— " Oh, no. It is what I wish, and " have long hoped for. I only appre- " hend, that the excess of joy which " the happy sight of you animates me " with, will not allow me sufficient " spirits to support that additional fa-

“ tisfaction. I will, however, exert
“ my utmost endeavours to give nei-
“ ther you nor these worthy friends
“ of ours reason to complain, or to
“ be alarmed.” Her father embraced
her, and Lord Sweetland entreated
him to bring Lord Belmont to dine
with him. “ That I fear,” replied
Captain Rivers, “ I cannot promise.
“ It is now past four o’clock (looking
“ at his watch), I left him in bed,
“ where his despondency inclined him
“ to remain. The joyful tidings I
“ have to communicate, will instantly,
“ I am certain, rouse him from that
“ state of languor; and in giving way
“ to future bliss, he will be as expe-
“ ditious in coming to pay his respects
“ here, as his own wishes can possibly
“ prompt him.”—“ We dine at five,”
interrupted Lord Sweetland, “ and we
“ will retard it as much longer as you
“ please.”—“ There will be no neces-
“ sity

"sity for that," answered the Captain, "as neither Lord Belmont nor myself will do much honour to your table. The happy discoveries of this day have suppressed my appetite. At supper we shall perhaps be more composed: therefore dine at your usual hour, and I will return hither with my friend with all imaginable expedition." Captain Rivers then took leave—Lord and Lady Sweetland prepared for dress, after a multitude of congratulations to their amiable young friend, who, on her side, was so agitated with joy, wonder, and admiration, at her promising happy destiny, as rendered her incapable to acquit herself of the etiquette of the toilette. Lady Sweetland perceiving her perturbation of spirits, begged her to omit that ceremony, as she looked lovely in every dress; and advised her to retire into her apartment, and try

to compose her spirits, with which she
gratefully complied. Captain Rivers
on his return home was received by
Lord Belmont with a most pleasing satis-
faction, mixed, however, with some
quietude at his long absence; which
led him to think he had received some
wished-for intelligence about Miss
Rivers from Lord and Lady Sweet-
land, and that he was gone in search
of her—"At which I rejoiced, but
"could not help murmuring," said
he, "and being uneasy, at your not ha-
"ving sent me notice, previous to
"your leaving Brighthelmstone. But
"your return makes me happy, and
"the more so, as your looks con-
"fidentially proclaim your inquiries have
"proved successful."—"Successful,
"indeed, to the utmost of my wishes,"
replied the Captain. Oh, my Belmont,
"my friend, I have found my child—
"my long-lost Louisa! My joy
"knows

“ knows no bounds, and I am almost
“ frantic. What a daughter Heaven
“ has thus preserved for me—you
“ yourself shall judge ! Imagine then,
“ my dear friend, that the young la-
“ dy, of whose beauty and talents I en-
“ tertained you with above two hours
“ last night—is my child, my sweet
“ Louisa : and it is to Lord and Lady
“ Sweetland I owe the everlasting ob-
“ ligation of her care and support here
“ in England.” Lord Belmont, aston-
“ ished, beyond example, at this wish-
“ ed-for information, congratulated his
friend, in terms, which sufficiently
denoted his sincere regard and friend-
ship for him. “ Come, my Belmont,”
said the Captain, “ come and be an
“ eye-witness of the object of my
“ heart’s contentment. Lord Sweet-
“ land expects you, and you will be
“ received by every one in that family
“ with a cordiality worthy their sen-

K 5 “ timents.

" timents."—" Though ill-inclined
" to go into company, from a depres-
" sion of spirits," said Lord Belmont,
" and from a slow fever which tena-
" ciously accompanies me—yet was I
" a thousand times worse, my heart
" could not refuse following my
" friend, to contemplate his happi-
" ness, to join in it from my soul, and
" to pay my respects to Miss Rivers,
" who, as your daughter, claims my
" highest esteem. Happy might I
" flatter myself, to be one day or other
" blest with the sight of my lovely in-
" cognita. But should my adverse
" fate still persecute me, and I am
" doomed to suffer, yet can I not be
" completely wretched, whilst Cap-
" tain Rivers honours me with his
" friendship." In saying these words,
he fetched a deep sigh, and looked so
pale, and so dejected, that his friend
hesitated whether he ought to acquaint
him

him with the wonderful discovery he had to communicate. And as the Captain had sufficient reason to appear cheerful, it was difficult for him to assume a grave aspect: therefore he smilingly said, "Come, Lord Belmont, " have courage—your case is, perhaps, not so desperate as you imagine. Recollect my past despairing situation, and admire with me its happy reverse. Some means, I doubt not, will be found to assist you in dispelling that melancholy which you seem to cherish. And I have the presumption to think, that my daughter will, in some measure, contribute to the regaining of your health and spirits." Lord Belmont, looking steadfastly upon his friend, asked him upon what grounds he founded such a miracle? for nothing less than a smiracle, added he, could effectuate such an internal change not but that

it would ill become him to appear with a mournful countenance, before such an accomplished young lady as Miss Rivers, he therefore would exert his utmost efforts to cast off the gloom which overwhelmed him, whenever he should have the honour of being in her presence, which although it would relieve him for the time being, yet, he was very well assured that in her absence he would be infinitely more affected at the loss of that object in whom similar beauty and perfections were united.

" Then upon what foundation do you ground your suppositions?" added he. " Upon that foundation," replied the Captain, " which makes me the happiest of mankind; and in being such, can you be miserable? Oh, my Belmont, your incognina and my Louisa are but one!" Lord Belmont staggered, turned pale, and, as doubting the assertion, or mistrusting the cri-
gans

gans of his hearing, cried out, " Why
 " do you mock me, my friend ? it is im-
 " possible I have understood you right.
 " Captain Rivers would not thus sport
 " with my miseries ; yet the sound and
 " sense of his words were pleasing to
 " my mind. Oh, repeat them, and
 make me happy or miserable for ever."

" Then," said the Captain, " be as
 " happy as I am myself. It was my
 " Louisa to whom you presented the
 " fan she had dropped in the drawing
 " room—It was her you danced with
 " at Florence—It was her you plighted
 " your faith to, at Madame de Polig-
 " nac's—It is her that was persecuted
 " by Lord Crosslove; and though it
 " is not from her I obtained all these
 " particulars, which I learned from
 " yourself, yet she has given me suf-
 " ficient information to know she is
 " your incognita, and shall be your
 " wife."

Lord

Lord Belmont almost wild with joy, scarce knowing whatever he said or did, embraced the Captain, called him his father, his protector, his deliverer, a thousand times over, to the great satisfaction of his friend, who was thereby thoroughly convinced how tenderly he loved his daughter, which promised permanent felicity to them all.

During Lord Belmont's dressing, Captain Rivers acquainted him with every circumstance he had learned himself relating to his daughter, every syllable of which augmented his happiness, and increased his wishes of throwing himself at her feet. Scarce would he allow his servant time to adjust his hair, &c. so great was his eagerness to behold his beloved long-lost mistress. That wished-for moment arrived at last, and our noble friends arrived at Lord Sweetland's, the instant the desert had been introduced.

Captain

Captain Rivers, unwilling his daughter should be too suddenly surprized at the sight of Lord Belmont, had the precaution to send out for Lord Sweetland, in order to know whether she had sufficiently recovered her spirits to admit of a visitor, presenting him at the same time to that nobleman, who answering in the affirmative, conducted them both into the room. Lord Belmont, regardless of etiquette or ceremony, threw himself instantly at Louisa's feet, and unable to speak, snatched her hand, which he tenderly and respectfully kissed, and looked on her with eyes where love and admiration were painted. Louisa, confused beyond description, and blushing like the new-blown rose, incapable of withdrawing her hand which he held, cried with a faint voice,

“ Rise, my Lord, I beg, and do not
“ thus take advantage of the weakness
“ your unexpected sight hath reduced
“ me

“ me to.” He instantly rose, and begged her pardon for his temerity, said,
“ Unexpected as to the time, I hope,
“ Madam: may I not flatter myself
“ it was not unwished for? Could the
“ sovereign mistress of my heart suppose,
“ that the instant I knew where
“ she was, I would not fly to her with
“ the eagerness equal to the power she
“ has over my soul? then restore that
“ hand to me which you so unkindly
“ have deprived me of.” Louisa pale
and trembling, timidly stretched out
her hand which he immediately re-seized
again, and fervently kissing it, said,
“ Oh, Miss Rivers, will you not
“ bless me with one look?” (her eyes
being fixed on the ground) Upon which
she gently lifted up her head, and looking
at him with the most amiable
modesty and most angelic smile, her face
being covered with blushes, said, “ You
“ forget, Lord Belmont, here are other
“ friends

" friends you should pay some attention to."—"I live but to obey you, " Madam," said he, and recovering, as from a trance, he addressed himself to Lady Sweetland (who, on his first entering into the room, had ordered her own family to their apartments for a little time, not chusing they should be a witness to a scene she had partly foreseen) begged a thousand pardons for the unpoliteness he had been guilty of, but trusted she would attribute it to his unbounded joy at having recovered a long-lost treasure. "A treasure indeed, my Lord," replied she, "and I heartily congratulate you upon it; though I, in my turn, must become a loser by it."—"Not entirely so," said Lord Sweetland; "and I will make a bargain, that Lord Belmont shall not so engross her, but that we shall have her company for a month or two together."—"That lady shall

" shall ever be her own mistress," returned he ; " but I will make a bargain too, my Lord, that you must admit me likewise." — " A trio," interrupted Captain Rivers, " will, I hope, not prove disagreeable ; and, with Lady Sweetland's permission, I will make one in the party." — That lady testified her approbation, with thanks, at the honour intended her ; and desiring Lord Belmont to place himself between her and Miss Rivers, who had her father on the other side of her ; and the young ladies having again made their appearance, the conversation became general ; all was mirth, all was good - humour, and all was contentment : and there never was a party met together in whom inward satisfaction appeared more conspicuously than in our amiable friends.

Louisa, though rather silent, never before appeared so lovely in the eyes

of her lover as she did that evening. The elegant simplicity of her dress, or rather undress, being a sprigged muslin morning habit, her hair unadorned with either flowers or feathers, but in a neat though careless manner, shaded her forehead and neck, the whiteness of which vied with the purest alabaster; her black sparkling eyes, modestly bent downwards, unless when she spoke; the amiable confusion in her countenance, blended with inward satisfaction; all together made her look so inimitably enchanting, as made her appearance more like a divinity than an inhabitant of the world. Lord Belmont, as beside himself with excess of joy in beholding, without restraint or fear from a morose parent, his beautiful destined wife, gazed on her incessantly with love and admiration. Nor could all the respect he entertained for her, added to that which he owed to the
company

company present, prevent his rivetting his eyes upon her, till warned by the frequent blushes of Louisa, who, though pleased with his constancy, yet plainly demonstrated she was embarrassed by his excessive attention. Perceiving then her delicate uneasiness, he exclaimed,

“ Who could have imagined, Madam,
“ when I had the honour of your
“ hand at Lady Cagliari’s ball in Flo-
“ rence, I was bless’d with that of my
“ charming country - woman ? And
“ how was it possible that circum-
“ stance could remain concealed from
“ the knowledge of the inhabitants ?
“ An object like you, exciting the
“ wonder and admiration of all be-
“ holders, ought to have inspired them
“ likewise with a curiosity equal to
“ that admiration ; especially as you
“ had resided there three months be-
“ fore my arrival in that city ; when,
“ on my immediate inquiries, though
“ made

“ made with all possible secrecy, and
“ apparent unconcern, I was given to
“ understand you was of that country,
“ and related to Monsieur de Polignac;
“ to which I gave credit, the name fa-
“ vouring more of the Italian than of
“ the French.” — “ You will pardon
“ me, Lord Belmont,” said she, “ it
“ was not at all surprising that I should
“ remain unknown at Florence, con-
“ sidering the retired life we led for
“ the first three months of our resi-
“ dence there; which was chiefly ow-
“ ing to Monsieur de Polignac’s ill
“ state of health, and the plan of œ-
“ economy he had laid down, to re-
“ trieve and repair if possible the shat-
“ tered remains of a once noble for-
“ tune, the ruin of which being only
“ known to himself. His health then
“ being the only pretext for leading a
“ solitary life, and confining our a-
“ musements abroad to walking and
“ riding

“ riding on the banks of the Arno;
“ and at home, to reading, music,
“ drawing, and needlework: and it
“ was but a few days before his me-
“ lancholy catastrophe that he express-
“ ed a desire his lady and myself
“ should receive and return visits; and
“ the ball at Madame de Cagliari's
“ was the first public assembly we ap-
“ peared in. You will likewise re-
“ member, that when honoured with
“ the proposal of your hand, I in-
“ formed you, I was not what I ap-
“ peared to be, neither a relation of
“ Madame de Polignac's, nor of that
“ country; and that I had particulars
“ to relate to you concerning myself,
“ ~~to~~ ^{on} the arrival of Lord Crosslove
“ prevented my acquainting you with;
“ and those particulars are now partly
“ revealed, but to which I must add,
“ my hopes of having a father still
“ alive, on whom alone depends the
“ disposal

“ disposal of me: since which time,
“ till the present moment, I have never
“ had the pleasure to see you.” —
“ Too well, Madam,” replied he, “ do
“ I remember the confidence you pur-
“ posed to honour me with, as it filled
“ me with anguish and inquietude,
“ from the dreadful apprehension I en-
“ tertained of your being pre-engag-
“ ed by compulsion: for permit me to
“ own that your noble and charming
“ behaviour to me flattered me with
“ hopes your heart was free. What
“ then was there left for me to con-
“ jecture, but that you was in similar
“ circumstances with myself, under the
“ compulsion of an arbitrary parent.
“ The thought was death to me, and
“ could only be equalled by the tor-
“ ments I suffered, when, on my return
“ to Florence, all intelligence with re-
“ gard to you was denied me, and my

“ fears

" fears suggested your being irrecoverably lost to me."

" No complainings now," interrupted Lord Sweetland; " I bar all mournful tales in this society; you are happy now, and must forget past sufferings. You will find time enough for communicating to each other your several grievances. This evening is destined to mirth." — " I will obey the injunction as much as in my power," said Captain Rivers; " yet there is nothing so natural, when long-lost friends meet, as to inquire into their respective adventures."

Louisa then informed her father, that she had, ever since she was able to hold the pen, kept a journal, in which she had regularly set down every transaction or event which had happened to her since she was six years of age; and, with Lord Sweetland's permission, she would send a servant up to London
the

the next morning, to fetch the box which contained it.—“It shall be done,” replied his Lordship; “and it is an excellent expedient to save the lungs of poor Miss Rivers, as she would have a great deal to say, and we thereby be deprived of her warbling; for I can assure you, Lord Belmont, she is the sweetest nightingale I ever heard.”

Louisa’s father was particularly pleased with the exactitude of her attention, in having thus procured him the satisfaction of knowing every circumstance relating to his daughter during his absence; and whispering to her, informed her, that she, in her turn, would soon be acquainted with his history; which in due time he performed to her and to her friends. And after having informed Lord Sweetland that a person might probably be found, who, by being liberally rewarded, would set off by break-

of day to fetch this much desired box, and his Lordship having assented thereto, they passed the evening with as much satisfaction as the felicity of their situation inspired them with.—Lord Belmont's fever had entirely left him; and both he and the Captain did honour to the supper their friend had ordered for them, as neither of them had tasted any food since their breakfast.

This amiable groupe continued but a week longer at Brighthelmstone, during which time Louisa had given such powerful proofs of her talents, as made Lord Belmont impatient to call her his own, and endeared her hourly to her father; who, as well as her lover, was astonished beyond expression (on reading her journal) at the vicissitudes of life she had gone through, and at the wonderful fortitude with which she had supported them; execrating the Prince de Courci and Colonel la Marche, and

and extolling the merits of poor Mrs. Birch, and the kind Dr. Worthy ; but, above all, of the good Mrs. Pianelli, and even those of her husband, whose errors, with regard to Louisa, had proceeded merely from his affection towards her ; and they both proposed to give them such tokens of their gratitude, as would encourage others, in similar circumstances, to protect helpless innocence. Monsieur de Bonfoi next laid claim to their thanks ; and they sincerely lamented the unhappy fate of the Marquis and Madame de Polignac, especially Lord Belmont, who had known them, and who spoke of them in the highest though deserving terms to his friend. Lord Crosslove was not worth their notice. But what obligations had they not to Mr. and Mrs. Meanwell, who had extricated and delivered her out of the power of that persecuting tyrant, and afterwards to

the good Doctor their father. And although it could not be supposed Lord Belmont had reason to be pleased with young Meanwell's affection for Miss Rivers, yet, too generous to call that a failing in another which he himself was guilty of in an eminent degree, he on the contrary pitied the young man's sufferings from his heart, and said he would be a friend to him, if he would permit him to oblige him.— But with what delight did he dwell on that article, where Louisa so manifestly proved her unalterable constancy to him, though absent, and in an unknown region, as to leave her beloved Mrs. Meanwell, and accept of an asylum at Lord Sweetland's, in order to divert Mr. Meanwell, if possible, from all attention towards her. And when addressed by Lord Melmoth for the honour of her hand, and obliged to own she was pre-engaged, with what a religious perseverance did
she

she conceal the name of the object to whom she was engaged, to prevent his being made miserable by it, or at least become involved in numberless troubles and embarrassments. Lord and Lady Sweetland next shared their sincere acknowledgments. Young William Rivers, youngest son of Earl Rivers, was likewise gratefully remember'd by them, who, notwithstanding his parents' displeasure, would be civil to Louisa.— In short, not one to whom she had the smallest obligation was to be forgotten either by the father or by the lover; and as they were both possessed of princely fortunes, the Captain having, besides the treasure he had brought from Algiers, many thousand pounds in the funds in Spain, which together furnished his benevolent heart with the means of giving an ample flow to his liberality. The casket of jewels he had already bestowed on his daughter, to dispose of

its contents as she should think proper, knowing her generosity equalled his own; and already had she presented Lord and Lady Sweetland and their daughters with some very valuable diamonds and pearls, which she compelled them to accept of. She had likewise informed her dear Mrs. Pianelli (with whom she had constantly kept a strict correspondence, although she, as well as her other friends, had remained ignorant of the name of her lover) of the happy change in her situation. She had also written upon the same interesting subject to Monsieur de Bonfond and to Mrs. Meanwell, all of whom felt an unbounded satisfaction at her promised and apparent happiness.

Being arrived in London, Lord Belmont's first care, after having looked into his affairs, was to beg Captain Rivers would not delay any longer his felicity,

felicity, but permit him to entreat his lovely daughter to fix the day for their union, which he granted ; and Miss Rivers, above all superfluous formalities, consented, but referred the naming of the day to her father, who agreed to its taking place as soon as the necessary preliminaries should be settled. Previous to these happy nuptials, Captain Rivers was introduced to their Majesties, and was most graciously received, but was requested by the King and Queen, to wait on them at the Queen's palace, in order to inform them of his wonderful adventures, and miraculous deliverance from slavery at Algiers, which gracious and flattering command he obeyed with pleasure.

The amiable Miss Rivers was the ensuing court day presented at St. James's by her friend, Lady Sweetland, and deservedly bore away the palm from the rest of her sex. She looked

most uncommonly beautiful that day; Lord Belmont being in the drawing room, and their intended union being every where generally talked of, caused such a sweet confusion in her countenance, by the alternate change of colour in her cheeks, that all eyes were fixed upon her. Lord Belmont's satisfaction at seeing her the admiration of the drawing-room, was inexpressible; nor was her worthy father less delighted to behold his darling child the object of universal esteem and good will. If Miss Rivers had been capable of lodging pride and malice in her bosom, she might have found a large field for displaying it, by triumphing over Lady Rivers and her two daughters, who unfortunately to themselves, were in the presence that same day, unnoticed in a large and brilliant circle, where they formed a mere blank: but so far from assuming upon the preference

ference so visibly in her favour, she, to the contrary, with the most enchanting humility, kept back (though even urged to proceed forward, as she was to be presented) in order her aunt and cousins should precede her; which behaviour gained her unlimited applause. Captain Rivers also, notwithstanding their unworthy treatment of his daughter, first in his brother's answer to Lord C——'s letter, the English ambassador at Paris; and afterwards at their own house, where both the Earl and the Countess had insulted her in the most unfriendly manner; yet notwithstanding which, his humanity and excellent disposition led him to visit them, and had been received with a constrained civility, and with manifest confusion at their past conduct, which denoted but too well their aversion to receive his future visits, not being able to bear the self upbraids.

ings his presence occasioned them ; but our hero had fulfilled his duty, and of course was happy

In due time Miss Rivers received answers from her above-mentioned friends, full of congratulations on her new-born happiness. Mrs. Pianelli in particular, was beyond expression lavish in her demonstrations of joy she experienced on the occasion. Mrs. Meanwell, besides the satisfaction this fortunate event had given her and hers, had likewise the additional one to add of her brother's perfect recovery as to his health, his spirits being also greatly better, and that they soon intended to congratulate her in person, their return for England being fixed for the week following the date of her letter. Lady Belmont, in answer to her son's letter, not only avowed her consent and approbation to his union with Miss Rivers, but expressed the peculiar felicity

licity she in particular should derive from so amiable a daughter, who by her merit and virtues would soon compensate for what she had suffered from the apostacy of Miss Dupely ; who on being disappointed in her ideal marriage with her son, had turned rebel against her in the full extent of the word, and whose anxiety to be united to a man of quality, and a title, procured her the punishment her false pride deserved, by secretly marrying an unknown person, who, although he had assumed the title of Count, was proved to be, by his own confession, a very few days after the ceremony, an itinerant quack doctor, and an Irish roman catholic, without a shilling in his possession : and who made no other apology for this deception, than the stale one of violent love for her person ; the contrary of which having already manifestly appeared in

L. 6. his.

his manner of behaviour to her, on finding her unpossessed of that imaginary fortune his homage had been paid to, and entirely dependant on my bounty. Ashamed of her conection, but not of her folly, she had left Florence, and was gone with her husband to Ireland, without having ever taken the least notice, or making any concessions to her: that notwithstanding this glaring ingratitude, yet in consideration of her being her niece, she had, previous to their departure for Ireland, sent for her husband, and promised him she would settle two hundred pounds a year for life upon his wife for their mutual benefits, provided he would make her a good husband, for which he gave his word and many thanks; but his wife had continued her sullenness, and had left Florence without so much as either paying her a verbal or written acknowledgement

ledgement for her favour. She blessed her stars, added her Ladyship, that Lord Belmont's affections were so firmly fixed on so amiable an object as he had chosen, whom she should be happy to call her daughter; and finished with hopes and wishes of seeing them united before her arrival in England, which she intended should take place in two months at farthest.

Lord Crosslove, after the imprudent step of Miss Dupely, vowed vengeance against the whole sex, and swore the best of them was not worth a pipe of tobacco, determining at his arrival in his own country, to retire upon one of his estates in Somersetshire, where the pleasure of hounds and horns, with good October and jolly fellows, would be a thousand times preferable to the flim flam, shallow conversation of squeaking women.

Every

Every circumstance relating to the wished-for union being now compleated, house, equipage, and servants, all ready, the happy Belmont gave his hand to the lovely Louisa. The ceremony was performed in the King's chapel, in the presence of her father, whose heart-felt satisfaction at the happiness of his child, shewed itself in drops of joyful tears which fell from his eyes when near the altar, and in silent fervent thanks to that great power and all-ruling author of men's destiny. Lord Sweetland had the honour to give the timid, bashful, blushing maid to her worthy lover. Lady Sweetland attended as a friend, and her daughters as bridesmaids.

Every thing was executed with a magnificence and splendor worthy the fortune of the noble parties, who were desirous that multitudes should be benefitted by the expences they would voluntarily

voluntarily incur on the occasion. The Captain and Lord Belmont gave every where tokens of their liberality, especially to those who composed Lord Sweetland's household: nor was the lovely bride behind hand in doing justice to her benevolence of heart, by rewarding all those of whom she received the smallest service.

The ensuing court day, Lord and Lady Belmont were presented to Their Majesties on their marriage. Never did bride look more captivating than our charming Lady Belmont. Her dress was elegant, yet simple; magnificent, not gaudy; being a white silk spotted with silver, trimmed with crape, embroidered and ornamented with a fringe, also of silver. Her hair, neck, breast, and arms, were adorned with diamonds, not profusely, but disposed of with exquisite taste: nor was there any other colour seen in
gauzy her,

her, but that which nature had graciously painted in her cheeks and lips. All was white, pure, and innocent as her mind.

Dr. Meanwell and family soon after arrived in London : Lady Belmont received them with that affability and satisfaction, which the sincerity of her friendship inspired her with. She introduced them to her father and to Lord Belmont, who, after testifying their unbounded thanks for their benevolence and care towards the object of their mutual love, begged they might have the honour to be ranked among their most affectionate friends, as they would do all in their power to deserve so singular a favour ; which was most cordially granted, and requested in their turn, by the good Doctor, his daughter and son : and very seldom a day passed in which the two families did not see each other.

Young

Young Mr, Meanwell, notwithstanding his recovered liberty, was visibly confused on his saluting Lady Belmont on her congratulations : but she; in the most enchanting manner, restored him instantly to his tranquillity, by assuring him she owed her happiness to him, and that she should ever look upon him as one of her most esteemed friends.

Captain Rivers, who had chosen to live with his son and daughter, although he had his own carriages, horses, servants, &c., was prodigiously taken with Dr. Meanwell ; he was of all their parties ; and when either of them were inclined to stay at home the other would always pass the evening with him. Lord Belmont, to shew his gratitude to Mr. Meanwell, presented him with a living of near eight hundred pounds per annum, and promised him further preferment.

The

The Captain and Lady Belmont had not, on their side, been sparing in acknowledging the obligations they were under to that worthy family, by presents of immense value.

The Dowager Countess Belmont arriving in England, Captain Rivers and her son went to meet her at Dover, and conducted her to her daughter-in-law, who became so great a favourite with her, that she never was so happy as when in her company.

There was yet one circumstance left uncompleated by this happy party. Louisa had expressed a wish to visit Mrs. Pianelli, whom she was sure would be made completely happy by this mark of her affectionate attention. Lord Belmont was no sooner apprized of her inclinations, than he ordered every thing to be prepared for their departure, applauding his charming Louisa for the generous thought. Her father,

father, who every day discovered new excellence in his daughter's dispositions and morals, approved exceedingly of the proposal, and was to be of the party, as likewise Lord and Lady Sweetland and their daughters.

Lady Dowager Belmont parted from her daughter-in-law with the utmost regret, as did also Dr. and Mrs. Meanwell, though all admired and commended her noble way of thinking, and her absence from them was not to exceed a month or five weeks at the farthest.

Being arrived at Paris, at the hotel they had chosen for their residence, they sent word to Mr. and Mrs. Pianelli, (who were previously informed of their intended excursion) that their whole party proposed waiting on them the next morning, the ladies being rather fatigued, having just quitted their carriages ; but how great was their

their surprise, when instead of receiving an answer by the servant whom they had dispatched with their note, Mrs. Pianelli entered the room, and the instant she perceived Lady Belmont, cried out, “Pardon this freedom, but ‘I could not withstand —’” Louisa no sooner saw her, but ran to meet her, overturning her chair, and exclaimed as she rushed into her arms, “Oh, welcome, my best beloved friend; my more than mother to me, welcome.” The good woman held her to her breast, and kissing her with a parent’s fondness, while the tears of joy trickled down her face. Lady Belmont then presented her to her father, whom she immediately recollect ed, as he, on his side, remembered her likewise, though so many tedious years were passed since his leaving Ireland. Lord Belmont then came up to her, and in the most respectful manner,

manner, conducted her to a seat next to that of his sweet Louisa, where she received those unfeigned thanks and praises, from both father and son, so justly her due. Lord and Lady Sweetland likewise bestowed on her every deserving encomium for her uncommon benevolence and excellence of heart.

As Mrs. Pianelli had been informed of every particular relative to Captain Rivers, by Lady Belmont, as likewise of every circumstance concerning herself, their conversation breathed nothing but happiness and contentment on all sides. They engaged her to sup with them, with which she joyfully complied.

The next day, by invitation from Signor Pianelli, they all went to dine at his house; and were received and regaled by him in a princely manner. The good man seemed beside himself, with

with joy at seeing Lady Belmont so happy, kissing her hand several times with respect and affection; and, after some conversation, he enlarged on her uncommon powers and skill in music, that being his darling passion, both as to the vocal and the instrumental parts of it.

Some time after dinner, Lady Belmont, sensible she could not please him better than by performing some of his capital pieces on the harpsichord, proposed their going into the music room, where she begged Signor Pianelli would accompany her on the bass viol; which was agreed to by all; but especially by her old friend. Their concert lasted two hours: and charmed every one of the party. Lord Belmont, in raptures at the delightful warbling of his Louisa, could not forbear whispering to her, that she excelled herself every day.

It

It was near one o'clock in the morning before our happy party returned home; Pianelli having insisted on the honour of their company to supper.— At parting, Captain Rivers and Lord Belmont presented him with bank notes to the amount of two thousand pounds for his past kindness to Lady Belmont; who added a diamond ring to it of five hundred pounds value.—To her dear Mrs. Pianelli, she gave her picture set in diamonds, and a superb gold watch: all which presents, both husband and wife, though pleased with their generous proceeding, with the utmost reluctance accepted of.

During their stay in Paris, after having been presented in form to His Majesty, they went frequently to Versailles, and were always received by His Majesty with uncommon attention and satisfaction; and the more so as that Prince had been informed of the happy revolution

revolution in the situation of Captain Rivers and his charming daughter.—The Prince de Courci and Colonel La Marche, whom they saw at court, were both treated with a distinguished neglect. The Princess de Courci congratulated Lady Belmont on her marriage, and on the return of her father in a complimentary letter; and received thanks likewise in writing. As to Lord C. the English ambassador, whose real intentions towards Lady Belmont having never been known, his generous offer of a pension, and his writing to Earl Rivers in her favour alone, having been communicated by her to her father, both he and Lord Belmont waited on him to pay their respects; and were received and entertained by him in the most elegant manner. His Lordship giving a splendid ball on the happy revolution in Lady Belmont's situation.

They

They staid just a month in Paris, seeing the good Mrs. Pianelli every day; and their departure was sincerely regretted, not only by her and her husband, but by all the nobility who had been honoured with their acquaintance. As for Mr. de Bonfoy, the brother of the deceased Marchioness de Polignac, they missed seeing him, on account of his sudden setting off on a secret expedition to Naples, two days before their arrival, which he had noticed to Lady Belmont in a letter which was sent to her at the hotel: his Lady having accompanied him, and his children disposed of in convents, at a great distance from Paris, till his return. Lady Belmont; although she regretted much in not having had the pleasure to see him, yet she rejoiced he enjoyed so advantageous a post, as he had a large family, and was far from being in affluent circumstances. She contented herself there-

fore by answering his letter, and by entreating his Lady to accept of some valuable diamonds, which she had taken the liberty to leave for her sealed up at their hotel; as a grateful remembrance of his past kindness for her.

Our amiable party left Paris soon after; and at their return to England they were received by all their friends with open arms, and with the greatest acclamations of joy; particularly by the Lady Dowager Belmont, Dr. Meanwell and family. Mr. William Rivers became a great favourite with his uncle and cousins, and was every day with them when not at Eton,

The lovely Louisa, in due time, presented Lord Belmont with a son; who, as well as her father, was transported with joy on the occasion. Captain Rivers and Dr. Meanwell were chosen godfathers, and Lady Dowager

Belmont

Belmont and Lady Sweetland godmothers.

Never did any pair enjoy more permanent filicity than Lord and Lady Belmont: their affection and esteem for each other increasing every day—they were blessed with a numerous offspring of both sexes; who treading in the steps of their parents, became an ornament to their country.—The happy Captain Rivers lived to an uncommon age, always residing with his worthy children; and shewed, by his example, as did also Lord and Lady Belmont, that virtue is its own reward; whereas vice ever meets with condign punishment; as was manifested in the family of Earl Rivers, whose eldest son was killed it a duel in an infamous quarrel; and his eldest daughter was run away with, and married to, a menial servant. Their domestic broils augmenting and breaking out in torrents every day

more and more, which all their much-desired riches were unable to stem.

Lord Crosslove; in a few years, fell a victim to intemperance, and dying intestate, his amazing fortune devolved on Lord Belmont, as heir at law: who made such use of it, as gained him the blessings of providence, and the universal good will, love, and esteem of mankind.

THE END.

a M.